



# TRIBUTES TO DEATH CRASH TEENAGER

Report by Andrew Morris

**TRIBUTES** have been paid to a teenager from Welshpool who was killed in a road smash which also left three others injured.

Isobelle Woodall, 19, was the passenger in a black Peugeot 206 which was in collision with a white Ford Focus ST.

Miss Woodall, from Belan, near Welshpool, was pronounced dead at the scene of the crash on Central Parkway in Wigan, Greater Manchester, at about 9.15pm on Sunday.

Miss Woodall's parents said they will make a statement about their daughter later this week, but her sister Emily paid tribute on Facebook.

She said: "On Sunday night we were informed of a car crash in Wigan. Izzie and her boyfriend Steven were in the car. As the car crashed, Isobelle was taken from us too soon and was killed on impact. There is no doubt that Isobelle will be greatly missed in all our lives. I am sure she will be looking down on us.

## Forever

"Even though she is no longer here with us she will forever be alive in our hearts."

Other tributes were left on the social networking site. Shona Broome said: "My thoughts are with you and your family Emily. She was a lovely girl and one of my first friends in the world! She will be missed by many and will forever be in our hearts."

Diane Jones added: "Heartbreaking. Just devastating news, Izzie was such a beautiful girl. I can't believe it."

Miss Woodall worked for Manor Adventure, an outdoor pursuits company based in Craven. Bosses at the company said they had no comment to make.

The Peugeot driver, a 27-year-old man, suffered serious head injuries. He was taken to hospital where he remains in a stable condition.

A 27-year-old woman who was a passenger in the Ford also sustained serious injuries, including a fractured pelvis. She was taken to hospital and remains in a serious condition.

The 38-year-old driver of the Ford was initially arrested at the scene before being taken to hospital suffering from serious injuries to his arm and body, including a fractured pelvis. He is in a serious but stable condition, officers said.

Investigators want to speak to the driver of a car - described as an "old type" Ford Fiesta - which the Ford Focus tried to overtake in the seconds leading up to the crash. They stopped at the scene but left before police arrived.

There is no suggestion that driver did anything wrong, but police believe they could give an account of what happened.

Constable Paul Hailwood of Greater Manchester Police's serious collision investigation unit said: "I would like to extend my heartfelt condolences to the family of the young woman who tragically died as a result of this collision. We have got specially trained officers providing them with support at this heart-breaking time."

## Hats off to stallholder's knitting fundraiser



Gemma Manning-Bentley's efforts for Big Knit in recent years saw her made one of the faces of the national campaign

A CRAFTY market stallholder has been handing out needles and wool as she starts a challenge to knit 5,000 miniature hats for a national fundraising campaign.

Gemma Manning-Bentley, who runs Gemmipops Designs in Oswestry Indoor Market, has taken part in the Innocent Smoothie and Age UK Big Knit campaign for the past five years.

Last year Gemma smashed her previous totals by knitting and collecting a staggering 3,650 hats, and she got this year's total off to a good start with a knitting drop-in at her stall on Friday.

The idea is for people to knit hats for the company's smoothie bottles to wear, and for each hat sold the company makes a donation

to Age UK. Gemma said: "The hats are for Innocent Smoothie for Age UK, raise 25p each, and our target is 5,000 as it's our fifth year."

"We've made 8,437 hats in the last four years raising over £2,100. It's no small achievement and I'm so proud that my little stall could play its part."

Each year Gemma has kicked off her collection with a knit-a-thon in her shop, and she said she is always thrilled to see how many different people take part.

She said: "It's a huge community effort. Everyone gets involved. The hats come in from all over - from knitting groups, from a lady in a nursing home, and two years ago from a seven-year-old boy who contributed his first ever bit of knitting."

"I've recruited all my friends and family to help. My mum's in charge of pompoms for hats that arrive without them."

Patterns for the tiny hats are available from Gemma at her stall on the upper level of the market, and she will be collecting the hats until mid-October.

Last year Gemma was chosen as one of the faces of the national fundraising campaign, seeing her picture included on Innocent smoothie bottles and cartons.

In her first year, 2011, she collected 827 hats. That figure rose to 2,800 in 2013 and rose again last year. The money raised by the sale of the hat-wearing bottles goes towards the cost of essentials such as blankets and hot water bottles, as well as social gatherings.

## EXPLOSION

### Bar boss tells of horror and panic after bomb attack

A MAN from Welshpool who runs a bar close to where a deadly bomb blast killed 20 people spoke of the "smoke and panic" following the terror attack.

Gavin Cox, 45, has a bar in Bangkok, close to the Erawan Hundu shrine, where the explosion happened on Monday.

Mr Cox said he had been horrified by some of the scenes he witnessed.

He said he was "lucky" to be far enough away from the scene to avoid seeing the full extent of the horror.

He said: "There are nasty scenes here as you'd imagine. I'm fine although hundreds clearly aren't."

"I was at work and heard the blast. It was a cross between a thunder clap and a mini-earthquake. There was a lot of smoke and an acrid smell of burning rubber."

"I was close enough to see the smoke and panic but fortunately not close enough to see the full extent of the horror. I know a reporter from the BBC went straight into the shrine area where all the bodies were, but I couldn't stomach it."

"Time will tell but believe me, Thailand is still very much a safe place for tourists to come. These things are incredibly rare here."



Gavin Cox

## HEARING

### Man, 43, in court over rape charges

AN Oswestry man has appeared in court charged with three counts of rape.

Mark Henson, 43, appeared on crutches in the dock at Mold Crown Court on Friday.

Judge Philip Richards rebailed him pending a plea hearing in October on condition that he lives at an address on the Brookfield Estate, Weston Rhyn.

A provisional trial date was fixed for February of next year.

He was bailed on condition that he has no contact with the complainant.

The court was told that the defendant had significant mobility problems.

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# MP defends right to take on new consultancy role

Report by Pam Kingsley

**NORTH Shropshire MP Owen Paterson has defended his right to take up a job with a company he had contact with during his time in Cabinet.**

Mr Paterson has taken up a role as consultant with Randox Laboratories Ltd, a company he came into contact with during his time as Shadow Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and then as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Mr Paterson said he saw nothing wrong in taking the job, which will be on a part-time basis of about one day per month.

He said: "Ex-ministers bring value to companies with both business experience and government experience. I think it's a thoroughly good thing if I can help them. I was in business for 25 years before I got to Parliament and there's not a lot of people who've got the business, government and Parliament experience that I've got."

## Diagnostic

"There are strict rules: I can't lobby any ministers on any subject on behalf of the company within two years of leaving office, so there is one year to go."

Randox Laboratories is based in Northern Ireland and carries out diagnostic work for hospitals as well as food testing and forensic toxicology. Acoba, the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments, was told that Mr Paterson's new role "may involve discussions with ministers".

The North Shropshire MP is one of several former ministers to have secured jobs recently at companies with which they had official dealings in government. They include Steve Webb, the former pensions minister, and David Willetts, the ex-universities minister.

However, the moves by the former ministers have been criticised by campaign group Transparency International UK.

Nick Maxwell, of the group, said: "These cases show that former ministers are accepting jobs with the same companies that lobbied them when they were in government. While in some cases it can be useful for former members of the government to bring their expertise to outside organisations, there is a risk of ministers in office effectively being influenced by the expectation of a job afterwards."

## Farmer thanks hospital with cycle fundraiser



Farmer Rhys Lewis with, left to right, Sian Lewis, Becky Warren, Charlene Dale, Sian Lewis and Sharon Warren

A FARMER who was left paralysed from the waist down after a freak accident has visited the Oswestry hospital where he was treated – after raising more than £10,000 in an incredible cycle challenge.

Rhys Lewis spent three months at the Midlands Centre for Spinal Injuries (MCSI) at The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital following the accident in April 2014. He had been chopping down trees when one split and landed across his back.

The 25-year-old's sister, Sian, along with friends Charlene Dale and Anwen Morris, hit on the idea of a fundraising cycle ride from the MCSI to Rhys's home town of

Machynlleth – and Rhys joined them for the ride using a special hand-powered cycle.

They were joined on the 50-mile ride – completed in three hours, 34mins – by members of hospital staff including MCSI ward manager Becky Warren and nurse Sharon Warren, as well as over 70 members of the Machynlleth community including team-mates from Machynlleth Rugby Club.

Returning to the hospital this week, Rhys said: "The care I received at the hospital was absolutely excellent, I couldn't fault it at all, so I was glad to be able to give something back with the cycle ride."

"It was good to go back to the unit and see all the staff again. I've been a few times now

to talk to patients who are going through something similar. I try to lift their spirits – I tell them it's not all doom and gloom."

Anwen, a first aider for the rugby club, said: "We were determined to do something to say thank you for the wonderful care that Rhys received. He's made remarkable progress and the cycle ride seemed like the perfect challenge."

The cash is being split between the Wales Air Ambulance, MCSI, and Apêl Rhys, an appeal set up to help Rhys. Becky Warren was delighted by the donation. She said: "It was one of my proudest moments riding into Rhys's home town right behind him, it felt like I was taking him home."

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## Crackdown over breaks at hospital

STAFF at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital have been told to cut out unofficial breaks – or face having their pay docked.

The hospital in Gobowen is clamping down on break times after complaints that some staff were taking more breaks than others. Any breaks taken by staff other than the official 20-minute recess will see employees pay out of their own pocket.

Aaron Jones, Unison branch secretary at the hospital, said the move was unfair to staff who already feel overworked. He said: "Staff morale at the trust is already low. Hard-working Unison members are having to choose to lose money or not have breaks."

But Ruth Tyrrell, associate director for human resources at Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, which runs the hospital, said many members of staff have been pleased by the move.

She said: "It has become apparent that some managers have been allowing staff to take breaks within their paid hours while others were not."

"We are not stopping staff taking a break. We are just ensuring that in the few areas where additional breaks mid-morning or afternoon are being taken, these are not paid. This has been welcomed by many staff, who find it unfair that some colleagues – predominantly in certain non-clinical admin areas – have been getting paid while having a break when they have not."

## Bid to raise funds for African village

THE generosity of people in Shropshire has helped supply an African village with clean water and school equipment – and now they are being asked to help give the villagers fresh eggs.

Catherine Bynon, from Weston Rhyn, near Oswestry, has been a sponsor of the Ivuusya School charity project in Kenya for many years.

And now Mrs Bynon, 70, is looking to raise a further £150 to create a chicken farm in the African village.

She said: "I've already sent over the money for them to clear the land ready for the farm, but now I'm asking if people could donate towards the costs of setting it up. It wouldn't have to be very much – it could be £1 for a water bowl for the chickens."

Anyone interested in helping to fund the chicken farm can email catherine@bynon.plus.com

# Fake speed camera puts the brakes on drivers

Report by Sue Austin

**VILLAGERS in Knockin have set up a fake speed camera to slow down traffic going past their homes – and say it is already working.**

They believe motorists are reducing their speed as soon as they see the yellow imitation camera, which is made out of an empty cardboard box, stuck together with tape and attached to a pole on the side of the road.

Peter Richardson and his wife Lisa, who are responsible for the 'camera', said they felt they had to act amid fears a young child could be killed.

The fake camera on the B4396 running through the village has been welcomed by residents and villagers in Knockin, who say they have been campaigning for years for speed enforcement measures.

### Problem

And Shropshire Council has said it is happy for the camera to stay up until a flashing speed limit sign is installed.

Garth Proffitt, spokesman for Shropshire Council, said: "We recognise that there's a problem with speeding traffic through Knockin and sympathise with the residents' concerns."

"Later this year we're planning to install a permanent vehicle-activated sign which flashes up a reminder of the 30mph speed limit to drivers, and we're happy for the fake camera to stay in place until this sign is installed."

The camera was set up in recent days by Mr Richardson the night before a birthday garden party for the couple's six-year-old twins James and Ruby.

There is a 30mph speed limit in force on the road, but the couple – who run the Pizza Two Four restaurant in Oswestry and moved to Knockin in February – said motorists regularly travelled through the village at much higher speeds.

"The speed that drivers go through Knockin is crazy," Mrs Richardson said.

"We have a lot of young children



Peter and Lisa Richardson, pictured with their children James and Ruby, have been praised for their initiative

and a lot of older people live here. There have already been pets killed on the road and if we don't do something ourselves, I worry that a child will be next."

"We were celebrating the twins' birthday and also our first year of running Pizza Two Four with a party in the garden and Peter was really worried about the traffic."

Neighbour Ella Evans praised the couple and said it was a great idea.

"It worked straight away," she said. "The drivers seem to spot the box and

slow down. We have such a lot of traffic going through Knockin: cars, lorries and, at this time of year, a lot of holiday traffic on the way to the coast."

"Anything that slows the traffic down has to be a good thing."

Julie Stevenson, who works in the village store and post office, said she was grateful to Mr and Mrs Richardson.

"This is a busy main road and the traffic speeds through," she said. "I have certainly noticed the difference." Despite the fake camera being

well-received in the village, road safety chiefs have said they do not endorse the measure.

Warwickshire and West Mercia Safer Roads Partnership said it urged communities to raise speeding-related concerns with their parish councils or Safer Neighbourhood teams.

"All of our speed enforcement sites are carefully assessed against strict national Department for Transport criteria around suitability, traffic management and health and safety before being implemented," it said.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Benefits case man admits to claiming £14k

AN Oswestry man falsely claimed £14,000 of benefits, a court heard.

Nathan Callum Cheesman, 30, of College Road appeared at Shrewsbury Magistrates Court, where he admitted four charges of making false statements, which allowed him to claim jobseeker's allowance, along with housing and council tax benefit.

The charges – which cover a period of just under two years from June 2011 – relate to Cheesman claiming he did not live with his wife who was working at the time.

Mike Phillips, prosecuting, said: "The total amount of overpayment is £14,000."

"There is no application for compensation because the department can claw back the over payment through their own means."

Jamie Wade, for Cheesman, said he had committed the offences because he was desperate, and not to fund a "lavish lifestyle".

Magistrates sentenced Cheesman to serve a 12-month community order along with a six-month supervision requirement and 200 hours of unpaid work.

He was also ordered to pay £85 prosecution costs.

### Police plea over theft of vehicles

POLICE are appealing for help to trace two stolen vehicles.

An untaxed red Mazda was stolen from a farm at Morton, Oswestry, between 5.30pm on August 8 and 8.30am on August 9. On August 10 a small, white Teardrop caravan was stolen from a driveway in Lower Minster, Oswestry. The caravan was taken between 3.30pm and 4pm and was seen heading towards Oswestry School and possibly the A5.

Anyone with information on either of the thefts is asked to contact police on 101.

### Club seeks players

OSWESTRY Hockey Club is looking for new members of all ages and abilities to join them for the new season. Training will start next week and will take place at 6.30pm on Wednesdays at Oswestry School. Email Sarah Haynes at sarahatnufc@btinternet.com

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# County to lose one of its A&E wards in shake-up

Report by Mark Andrews

**ONE** of the emergency departments at Shropshire's two main hospitals will close during the next decade as part of a shake-up of A&E services in the county, it has been revealed.

A meeting of county health executives last Thursday decided that a new emergency centre would be built at either Telford or Shrewsbury. It rules out a third option of building on a new site between the two towns, on the basis that it would cost the NHS between £15 million and £17 million a year.

David Evans, chief officer of Telford and Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Group, also said it was extremely unlikely the status quo - with emergency units at both Telford's Princess Royal and the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital - would be maintained.

## Village hit by spate of break-ins

POLICE are warning residents in a village near Oswestry to be alert after a spate of burglaries while residents were away on holiday.

Burglars hit five houses in Pant in the space of four days, with various items including jewellery being taken.

Between 8.15am on August 7 and 8pm on August 9, a house in Brooklyn Road was broken into and jewellery was stolen. The incident reference is 0727s of August 9.

On Sunday, two houses were targeted. A neighbour who was keeping an eye on a house in Rockwell Lane reported that the property had been broken into, possibly overnight between Saturday and Sunday. The incident reference is 0331s of August 9. And at 4am the same day, security lights were activated at a house in Lavender Hill.

The family were away and a neighbour alerted police. Torchlight was seen and figures were seen in the garden but no break-in was reported. The incident number is 0180s of August 9.

On Monday a householder returning from holiday to his house in Rectory Lane and found it had been broken into in his absence. The police reference is 0333s of August 10.

And a house in Penygarrig Rise was broken into overnight between Monday and Tuesday. The incident was reported by a neighbour while the occupants were away. The police reference is 0120s of August 11.

Anyone with information about any of the incidents is asked to call 101.

## Poet's birthplace on market



Plas Wilmot, birthplace of Wilfred Owen, carries a price tag of £625,000

THE Oswestry birthplace of war poet Wilfred Owen has been put up for sale.

Owen was born at Plas Wilmot, Weston Lane, in 1893. His family moved to Birkenhead four years later before returning to Shropshire.

Plas Wilmot was awarded Grade II-listed status in 2012.

It has been in the hands of the same family for more than 40 years, but has now been put on the market for £625,000.

Built in the early 19th Century, the property is described by estate agent Savills as "charming villa" on the edge of Oswestry.

Owen died in November 1918, just days before the end of World War One.

His poems, including Dulce Et Deco-

rum Est, Anthem for Doomed Youth and Strange Meeting came to define the horrors of trench warfare.

In its description, Savills say the property is "a historically important Grade II Listed house on the edge of Oswestry with beautiful gardens, the birthplace of Wilfred Owen."

"It comprises six bedrooms, three reception rooms, garden room, games room, kitchen, study, utility area, pantry, store rooms, cellar, WC, outbuildings and traditional gardens."

It adds that a joiner named Edward Salter began building the home in 1829. It was enlarged and altered in the decades to follow before the birth of Wilfred Owen on March 18, 1893.

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# Route for new railway line footpath revealed

Report by Pam Kingsley

**THE route for a cycleway and footpath alongside a heritage railway line in Shropshire has been revealed.**

Shropshire Council has drawn up plans for the two-metre wide path to follow the tracks of the Cambrian Heritage Railway in Oswestry.

When they were initially submitted, the plans did not specify the exact route of the path, but Paul Field-Williams, principal engineer for Mouchel, which will be carrying out the work for Shropshire Council, has now provided more information about where the route will start and finish.

Mr Field-Williams said: "The first phase of the scheme is between the crossing next to the signal box at Coney Green and up to Sycamore Drive, and we are proposing steps leading from the path to Middleton Road.

## Groups get cash boost from council

Oswestry Town Council has given a helping hand to three major organisations in the town.

The council's large grants scheme gives awards to groups or projects that benefit Oswestry. Recently the council handed out three cheques.

A grant of £1,000 has been given to the Oswestry and District Arts Association for its work in supporting art organisations and individuals. The association gives out its own, smaller grants and also bursaries to local young people.

A second grant of £1,000 was awarded to the Oswestry Town Museum which is based in Guildhall. Volunteers ensure the museum is open to the public and also run a number of projects, including wartime trenches being constructed at Park Hall.

Councillors also gave a £750 grant to the Oswestry Community Games which will be held in Cae Glas Park on September 20.

Mayor of Oswestry, Councillor Paul Cherrington, said the money would be used to purchase junior bowling equipment.

He said: "These organisations already do a fabulous job for Oswestry, reaching out to different sectors of the community. The town council was only too pleased to be able to support such projects and envisage a lot of people will benefit."

He said that anyone who wants information to apply for grants should contact Oswestry Town Council at the Guildhall, 01691 680222.

## Disney magic at hospice



The princesses from North Wales Children's Parties meet 17-year-old Keeley

CHILDREN at Hope House hospice were treated to a visit from Disney royalty when four princesses dropped in to throw a party.

Snow White, Belle from Beauty and the Beast, and Frozen sisters Anna and Elsa visited the hospice in Morda, near Oswestry, where they were greeted by 12 excited children.

Abi Williams, playleader at the hospice, organised the visit and said even the boys enjoyed meeting the four characters.

"We can't praise them enough because they brought so much fun and magic to Hope House and created such a wonderful afternoon," she said. "They all loved it, even the boys. One young man in particular was very much 'I'm not bothered', but then he saw them and went crazy for them."

The princesses were sent by North Wales Children's Parties, which has been fundraising for the hospice since the start of the summer and has raised £1,000 so far. The money has been raised by princesses Elsa and Anna going into schools and nurseries and singing the Frozen song Let It Go.

To celebrate the fundraising milestone, the four princesses threw the party for 12 children who are either staying at the hospice or receive support in their own homes.

Laura Griffiths, who played Elsa and runs North Wales Children's Parties, said: "We had the most amazing visit to Hope House to meet the brilliant staff and children that we have been fundraising for."

To support the fundraising challenge visit [www.justgiving.com/theletitgochallenge](http://www.justgiving.com/theletitgochallenge)

### Resolve

"It is our intention to add the final stage to the public footpath behind Travis Perkins off Shrewsbury Road at a later date assuming we can resolve all issues.

"Whilst the whole scheme is not due for imminent construction, we felt it was necessary to apply for permission for the whole scheme to give us a free run once we can get on to the second phase.

"The scheme should also tie in with Middleton Road from the proposed steps near Middleton Road Bridge and also Millennium Green near Plas Fynnon Way."

The wording of the application has also been changed to omit the word "disused", recognising that the Cambrian Heritage Railway is in the process of bringing the line back into use.

The track bed is currently used as an unofficial pathway by pedestrians, but this will be unsafe once the Cambrian Heritage Railway begins running trains along the line again.

An application for a legal order to allow passenger trains to run on the track has been submitted by the railway, which hopes that the application will be granted later this summer.

Funding for the footpath and cycleway will come from a share of a £5 million grant that Shropshire Council secured from the government's local sustainable transport fund almost five years ago.

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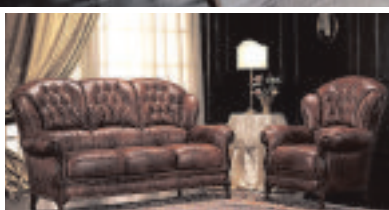
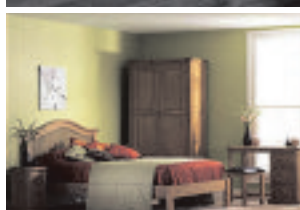
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## BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

Sport rarely features in this column but I was incensed and forced into print by the actions of Jose Mourinho in recent days. The Chelsea manager lost the plot with two members of his medical staff who ran on to the pitch to assist a player who had collapsed to the ground as if shot by a sniper from the roof of Stamford Bridge.

Chelsea were already down to 10 men and hanging onto a 2-2 draw when Eden Hazard went down with the referee indicating he needed attention. The decision of the medical pair to race to his attention meant he was forced to leave the field, taking his side down to nine men.

The row between manager and medical staff went viral on social media and Mourinho did little to diffuse the situation when saying the pair would not be on the bench in the near future, accusing them of being naive.

For translation purposes that means Hazard was not really hurt but was trying to save every second of time he could to help his side hold on until the end.

I am a great admirer of Mr Mourinho's work at Chelsea, though he has openly criticised others for "cheating" in similar situations I the past.

He humiliated his medical team for their actions but the Premier League Doctors' Group says they would have breached their duty of care if they had not reacted in the way they did.

The fact Hazard was able to return to the field immediately proves the player was feigning injury. Mr Mourinho was not only accepting but encouraging of such behaviour. I wonder how many of you, like me, are sick of players writhing in agony when they are not injured. What makes things worse is that it seems it's OK to openly encourage it.

Let's all keep our fingers crossed that Shropshire Council is successful in gaining Enterprise Zone status for the planned Oswestry Business Park.

Work on building the park is set to go ahead within a year at Mile End with the prospect of up to 3,000 new jobs and Enterprise Status would mean rate relief and other incentives for would-be employers. The government announced an extension to the scheme in the recent Budget and Oswestry is an ideal location. It would not just be good news for Oswestry but the whole area too.

.... This week wearing my other hat as a motoring journalist has meant driving around in a convertible F-Type Jaguar – fantastic I hear you all saying.

Well, yes, to a point.

What is it about expensive supercars that brings out the worst in other drivers? It seemed that every boy racer for miles around felt the need to overtake, regardless of road conditions.



On-road team manager Felicity Joyce gets equipment ready for another busy day of incidents



Control room operator Steve Mason surveys huge amounts of information from the Midlands' roads



The control room at Quinton Business Park in Birmingham is staffed night and day

# The eyes and ears of our region's road network

**ROB COX meets the team who keep the traffic moving on 1,600 miles of roads in the Midlands**

**FROM a single nerve centre overlooking the motorway, a dedicated team of Highways England operators monitor more than 1,600 miles of road.**

It is a 24/7 undertaking, supported by 140 roadside officers, with the sole purpose of keeping the Midlands' roads free of congestion.

Walking into the bustling control centre, located at Quinton Business Park at the M5 near Birmingham, you could be forgiven for thinking you had accidentally entered mission control at NASA. A huge television display spans the entire of the front wall while rows of operators, complete with headsets, assess data.

In the centre is a map of the Midlands' motorways stretching from junction 16 of the M6 at Stoke, past the M54 junction and travelling down as far as Strensham Services off the M5, shortly before it meets the M50 near Herefordshire. It also shows the main A-roads running west through Shropshire towards the Welsh border and spans as far east as Banbury.

In total, the control centre monitors 800 miles of motorway, including the M6, M5 and M54, and 860 miles of A-road including the A5, A53 and A41.

Around the central map live footage is displayed from a selection of more than 700 cameras located across this busy network of roads. On the left of the imposing screen are images from a 24-hour news service, which can be the first to alert Highways England to a crash. Below that are wind speed readings.

The display also monitors activities under elevated sections of road, where



Decision maker – emergency planning officer Frank Bird

further cameras are installed to seek out any suspicious activity.

So how does all this technology come into play when there is a crash on the region's roads?

Frank Bird, the emergency planning officer, explains that once the emergency services have notified them of an incident, the first step is to locate it.

He says: "The main way we achieve this is through a series of copper loops located under the motorway which detect changes in the speed of traffic. When the traffic starts to slow down the technology in the road sends a message to the overhead gantries to state 'queue caution' or 'slow down'. So that procedure automatically starts to slow the traffic down. The next step then will be to check the nearest camera on the network to see if we can see the incident."

In the case of a serious crash, where

there is the need to close the motorway entirely, the focus of the control centre staff is on doing so as quickly as possible. Mr Bird says: "On some occasions the nature of the incident allows us to let motorists slowly drive past in the correct direction. But if the incident is potentially a fatal one it is very unlikely we could do that as the scene will need to be preserved for the corner's investigations."

"In that case we need to turn the traffic around and send them back to the junction behind."

"As a rule we work to the estimation a mile of traffic takes about an hour to release, so getting the motorway shut quickly in the first instance is crucial. When people are trapped in that situation they often get thirsty, hungry, and quite often you find they have left home without any medication they might be

taking, thinking they were just going to be travelling for one junction."

Listening to Mr Bird it is clear that staff at the control centre can get frustrated at the reasons some accidents take place in the first place.

In recent years there has been a big campaign to alert drivers to the dangers of using smartphones behind the wheel. A specific tendency to take selfies while driving has even been blamed for a rise in crashes on the UK's roads.

Mr Bird cites 'rubberneckers' who drive slowly to take a look at the scene of a crash as another frequent cause of collisions. But he adds: "Now, where there are very big incidents, we can put up big blue screens so drivers travelling in the other direction cannot see what has happened."

There is a particular challenge when it comes to big events which attract thousands of visitors. It is an area where Mr Bird believes there has been significant improvements made in recent years.

"The idea is to build a relationship with event organisers," he says. "A good example of this has been the West Bromwich Albion home matches."

"Six or seven years ago it used to be the majority of the problems were at the M5 junction 1. We worked with the club and by presenting them with data that showed by switching the kick-off from 7.45pm to 8pm it would allow around an extra 2,500 to 3,000 vehicles to get out of the area so the football fans would find it easier to get in."

As for the annoying issue of roadworks, the M54 and A5 in Shropshire are undergoing rolling works. It is difficult to remember the last time the M6 through the West Midlands was free of major roadworks.

Traffic cones which are then not accompanied by workers is a common complaint, but the reason for it is often simple according to Mr Bird.

He says: "A lot of the time we are waiting for materials to harden before we can put the Tarmac down."

## WORKING FOR YOU



On October 1 the Clinical Commissioning Group will announce the location of Shropshire's new emergency centre, replacing the current A&Es at Shrewsbury and Telford. I have made clear that I do not believe that the current acute arrangements serve the people of North Shropshire well. As it stands, people face a forty-minute journey to access emergency care.

We have seen key clinical specialities move to more advanced hospitals in the West Midlands – seriously ill patients have to travel to Stoke for heart and stroke treatment, for instance. The two separate A&Es are struggling to recruit quality consultants.

By building a state-of-the-art emergency centre covering all of Shropshire we would not just attract top class clinical specialists but would actually bring back skills and services to Shropshire. Balancing this, I want to see the building of urgent care centres enhancing the services of the new facilities which our successful campaign saw built in Oswestry. On the eastern side of North Shropshire I would like an urgent care centre in Whitchurch Community Hospital.

As part of our successful campaign to bring a health centre to Oswestry, we won the case to bring x-ray and plastering services to the town. This has stopped people who have routine fractures from having to travel, in pain, to Wrexham and Shrewsbury. These are the sort of services I would like to see provided by the urgent care centres locally, carrying out the majority of A&E services with only life-threatening cases travelling to a state-of-the-art hospital outside of North Shropshire.

Since Shropshire Council and the CCG have been working together, there have been far fewer problems and I would want to see this close co-operation continue, helping health and social care organisations to work together to meet people's needs, for example by making sure that care services know what help somebody needs in their home when they leave hospital.

I believe all of this would provide greatly superior care, closer to home, and I will continue to support proposals to improve this further. I have held meetings every two months with representatives from GP surgeries, the CCG, the Orthopaedic Hospital and town and parish councils. I have held these since the campaign to keep the maternity unit more than ten years ago and I will continue to fight for improved healthcare. The last two meetings have strongly endorsed the CCG's plans for two urgent care centres in North Shropshire and a new emergency centre.

Owen Paterson  
North Shropshire MP

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## Letters

# The many benefits of having a vegan diet

I'M writing about plant foods.

Many respectable health institutions, including the World Health Organisation, agree that vegetarian and vegan diets are healthy.

They can prevent many diseases and they are valuable for people of all ages, including children and pregnant women.

At the same time, these institutions and countless health experts warn against animal-based foods.

But no health authority would ever say that excess of plant foods can harm your health.

We simply don't need animal foods.

More and more people are discovering the health benefits of animal-free diets.

They realise that it's a kind and environmentally friendly way of living.

It gives them much more energy.

The number of vegan athletes is rocketing.

The ranks include even tennis star Serena Williams.

Regarding soya, 75 per cent of the world's soya production is fed to livestock.

That is also one of the reasons animal farming is responsible for environmental destruction.

Even if we all ate soya three times a day,

we still wouldn't need to produce nowhere near as much as we now feed to cows, pigs and chickens.

Being a vegan means making educated choices and enjoying your food guilt-free!

It's never been easier to adopt a plant-based diet and if you don't like to experiment, there's a growing number of convenience foods available.

It's a win-win-win scenario – for your own health, for the animals and for the environment.

**VERONIKA POWELL**  
Biologist and Viva! health campaigner

# Osborne must close these loopholes for the wealthy

MILLIONS of low-income families in the UK will lose out as a result of George Osborne's Budget.

That is because increases in the minimum wage will be outweighed by benefit cuts.

Families will be forced to choose between paying the bills or missing meals.

Some may be homeless.

Compare and contrast this with Mr Osborne's treatment of private equity fund managers.

They will continue to be allowed to pay capital gains tax at 28 per cent on their carried interest income, rather than income tax which can be up to 45 per cent.

Is it fair that they should be treated differently to other tax payers?

This is the so-called Mayfair tax loophole. It enables some of the richest people in the city to afford to live in Mayfair – because they are getting a huge tax cut, and paying less tax on much of their income than many nurses and teachers.

This is money that should be going to pay for our NHS and our schools.

This is one law for the rich and another for the rest of us.

Shrewsbury Labour Women's Forum calls on Mr Osborne to close this Mayfair tax loophole and live up to his budget rhetoric.

**Linda Webster and Liz Simbleton**  
on behalf of Shrewsbury Labour Party Women's Forum

# Judgement day is nigh

HOW would you feel if a burglar broke in and stole your precious possessions?

Violated, vulnerable, angry?

Yes, very angry most of us would be.

In the West Mercia region there were 20,000 burglaries over five years.

One typical case was at a home in Telford.

It is where a jobless man broke in during the day time.

He stole everything worth taking.

That included some precious family heirlooms, he scattered personal belongings around and left the taps running.

The thief was jailed for 27 months.

The victims must feel angry and want retribution, revenge.

Many people must harbour feelings of bitterness or hatred when they are robbed like this.

It's part of life that sometimes others will hurt us, but bitterness only consumes those who harbour it, give it up.

It's hard but we must forgive if we want forgiveness because no-one is perfect.

"Vengeance is mine says the Lord, I will repay."

God is the only one who knows all the facts so leave it to him.

The real judgement day is coming for everyone and we are all sinners.

Jesus died that we might be forgiven.

**R JONES**  
Oswestry

# Duke watches war game in Park Hall visit



Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, paid a royal visit to Park Hall, Oswestry, on May 26, 1967. The caption read: 'Prince Philip ended his visit to Park Hall Camp, Oswestry, yesterday with lunch in the sergeants' mess ... The Duke [second from right] is seen watching the acting out of the Battle of Waterloo in a 'war game' lesson.'

# All this talk of our one nation is just absolute tosh

ALL this talk by chameleons about a one nation is absolute tosh.

A public sector pay clamp of a one percent rise during this parliament and yet there is nothing done about the executives of large government institutions, quangos, and trusts, etc, where the chief executives and executives all appear to be on contracts where the sky is the limit for rises.

I heard a rumour about a chief executive of a housing trust who did not take a rise last year.

Commendable I hear you say except that I was also told he took five months paid leave.

All this talk about having to pay top whack to get the top people is rubbish, when you hear of some of the disasters they have presided over it makes one think of payment in washers.

Many are paid more than the Prime Minister. For what I ask? Time for George Osborne to look a bit deeper.

**D L BARNETT**  
Arleston  
Telford

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Readers' Letters,  
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Kettley,  
Telford, TF1 5HU

### EMAIL

letters@oswestry  
chronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

# Make pensions tax free, George

ONCE again we see George Osborne and his "caring" Tory party attempting to make what he calls meaningful cuts to the welfare department, and failing miserably, but, we didn't really expect anything else did we?

Instead of giving the pensioners a free TV licence perhaps he could see his way to making all our pensions tax free.

Come on Mr Osborne, you know it makes sense.

**M EDDIES**  
Shrewsbury

# Let us hope the green nonsense will come to end

LET us hope that the whole green energy nonsense will end soon.

Let us hope the government will realise they were conned by pseudo science and ageing hippy jobsworths.

These are the people who said that if millions of acres of rain forest, and carbon absorbing trees, were shipped here, half way around the world, and burned in power stations, and on farms as biomass CO2 emissions would fall.

The opposite has happened.

That's because without the now clear felled forests, CO2 absorption has ended.

Air pollution is up worldwide.

It is not from diesel, but biomass burning.\*

And who pays for all this? Well, electricity consumers of course, with a hefty charge for renewables, a joke because the felled trees will never be replaced.

**W F KERSWELL**  
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\*See on internet – Biomass pollution at danger levels in cities in USA

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Villagers getting ready for bazaar

A VILLAGE community is planning its first autumn bazaar with stalls, entertainment and refreshments – and organisers say they hope it will be the first of many.

Pant, near Oswestry, used to hold an annual carnival which then merged with an event in neighbouring Llany-mynech and finally stopped 30 years ago.

Beryl Phillips, secretary of Pant Memorial Institute, where the bazaar will be held, said residents were keen to hold a large-scale event again, so the idea of the bazaar was born.

She said: “Plans for the event are now well under way, but there is still the opportunity for more people to get involved in helping to make this a great day out for all. We have already had support from a number of community groups and businesses, and we would especially like to see local craft-people contact us.”

The bazaar will be held on October 3 between 2pm and 5pm. Funds raised will go towards the upkeep of the Memorial Hall.

Charity seeking more volunteers

A CHARITY is looking for volunteers to spend a few hours a week to shop for other people.

CHUMS Befriending in Oswestry is looking for people living in the area who can volunteer once a week to help someone in their community. Volunteer shoppers can either deliver shopping or accompany a client during their weekly shopping visit.

There are currently more than 20 people in the Oswestry area who volunteer with CHUMS shopping service.

To find out more information call Kim on (01691) 656882 or email info@qube-oca.org.uk

# Curry chefs vie for top prize in county contest

Report by Pam Kingsley

**CURRY chefs from in around Oswestry competed to be crowned the best in the county in the final of a prestigious competition run by Shropshire Council.**

Oswestry Tandoori and Taj Tandoori in Gobowen were among the four finalists in the 2015 Curry Chef of the Year competition.

The other finalists were Massala in Craven Arms and The Third Place in Shrewsbury.

The competitors took part in a cook-off in front judges at Derwen College in Gobowen last Tuesday where they had one hour to cook and display their chosen menu.

The finalists were judged on the taste and nutrition of their curry, side dish and rice accompaniment, as well as the food hygiene in their premises and catering practices.

All Indian, Bangladeshi, balti and Thai restaurants and takeaways in the Shropshire Council area with a food hygiene rating of three – satisfactory – or above were invited to enter the competition.

Successful applicants were visited to ensure that good food safety practices are being met, and to assess the taste and nutritional value of the chef's chosen dishes. All finalists received certificates and the winner was awarded a trophy.

Councillor Keith Barrow, Shropshire Council's leader, said: “My congratulations go to each of our four finalists. The competition has proved to be a resounding success since it was first held in 2010, and each year the standard goes up, making it very hard to choose between the excellent chefs.”

“The title has gone to a very worthy winner.”

## RSPCA man in cliff rescue of ewe



From left, RSPCA Inspectors Andy Broadbent and Mike Pugh, plus farmer Ieuan Williams

RSPCA inspector Chris Dunbar found himself involved in the rescue a stranded ewe – by abseilers.

Inspector Dunbar, who lives near Oswestry, took part in the rescue near Hell's Mouth, Abersoch, after the animal became stranded on a cliff.

A fisherman first spotted the sheep, which was only visible from

the sea, and contacted the farmer, Ieuan Evans. “He subsequently requested help from the RSPCA,” Inspector Dunbar said.

RSPCA inspectors Andy Broadbent and Mike Pugh abseiled down the sea cliff to rescue the ewe while others remained at the top.

Inspector Broadbent said: “The ewe was absolutely fine. She was in

a good condition but was a bit weak. She was around 20 to 30 metres down from the top of the cliff on a ledge.

“Once we caught the ewe, she was safely brought up to the top of the cliff and returned to the farmer who took her back to the flock.”

A video of the rescue is now on RSPCA Cymru's YouTube account.

## Police chief's inquiry call on missing persons cost

Shropshire's police and crime commissioner has ordered a probe into how much time and money West Mercia Police is spending looking for missing persons – after admitting they put a “real strain” on police resources.

Bill Longmore said he was fully in agreement with top cop Sir Peter Fahy, who said this week it was an “unsustainable” burden.

Sir Peter, of Greater Manchester Police, said other police work was being compromised by thousands of calls that would be better dealt with by social workers. He said it cost the force nationally £30 million a year.

Mr Longmore said: “I agree with Sir Peter Fahy's comments.”

“Missing person cases are often very time and labour intensive, and that inevitably means that they end up putting a real strain on police resources – both in terms of money and personnel.”

“Some weeks ago I asked for an update from the force on precisely how much resource is currently going into investigating missing person cases.”

“Once that information has come through we will be in a better position to look at the best ways forward, but as always, ensuring the best possible service to the public will be the priority.”

English, Scottish and Welsh police dealt with 306,000 missing people in 2012/13, according to the latest UK Missing Persons Bureau figures.

Each missing person call costs an average of £1,325, said researchers at Portsmouth University. Many cases involve young people who repeatedly run away from care homes.

Sir Peter said: There are other professionals who are really better trained to deal with this.”

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## Nurses given go-ahead for hospital jobs

MORE than 20 nurses recruited from the Philippines have been given the go-ahead to start working at Shropshire's two acute hospitals.

Certificates of sponsorship have been approved to allow the 21 nurses to work in the UK. They will now take up posts at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and Telford's Princess Royal within the next six to eight weeks.

It comes after recruitment of the nurses was delayed after the Home Office refused two applications for the certificates, which are a legal requirement for foreign nurses to work legitimately in the UK.

But a breakthrough has come following discussions between the Home Office and the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, which runs the two hospitals. The trust offered positions to 68 nurses following a recruitment event in the Philippines earlier this year. Applications for the remaining staff nurses who were offered positions at the trust will be re-submitted in September and October.

Sarah Bloomfield, a director at SaTH, said: "We are very hopeful our future applications with the Home Office over the next two months will continue to be positive."

## Drugs found in suspicious parcel

POLICE were called to Oswestry's Royal Mail sorting office after a suspicious package was reported.

Staff at the sorting office received the package last Wednesday and contacted police. Officers discovered it contained about £20 worth of cannabis. Sergeant Lee Johnson said: "The parcel was addressed to a property in Lincolnshire and so we have been in touch with the force there."

# Customer service is key priority for Coversure

## WE MEAN BUSINESS

**THE Chronicle's We Mean Business campaign celebrates Oswestry's businesses. This week we celebrate Coversure Insurance Services.**

Coversure Insurance Services in Oswestry is a family-owned and run insurance brokers where customer service is the key priority.

Customers know they can speak to real people in a local office who can answer questions straight away without any fuss. Honesty and transparency is key to their service which if why they are recommended so highly by their customers.

Coversure specialises in business and commercial insurance and arrange cover that is appropriate to individual needs whilst remaining competitive in price.

Whether you are self-employed and need liability cover or a large corporate business with fleet, office and employers liability requirements, you can be assured that you will be totally looked after throughout the life of your policy. See for yourself why over 80 per cent of customers renew their policies with them each year. They also offer very competitive premiums on motor, household and travel insurance and can happily quote over the phone or in person by popping in the office. To celebrate 15 years they are giving away up to £15 in vouchers for every new policy taken out during August (T&Cs apply - see in office).



Coversure Insurance Services, Oswestry, prides itself on its honesty and transparency

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Conference venue bids for expansion

A CONFERENCE centre in a village near Oswestry is looking to extend its residential accommodation.

Quinta Christian Centre in Weston Rhyn plans to extend one of its accommodation blocks to add an extra seven beds. Currently the centre has six buildings.

Until recently an extra semi-detached bungalow was available for guests, but the building was converted into accommodation for the newly appointed assistant manager and his family. The extension to Perry Lodge would replace the beds lost by adding an extra wing to the current accommodation block with three new bedrooms.

Centre manager Alistair Nurdan said the extension will be a "well-used resource" for guests.

Quinta Christian Centre provides conference facilities and accommodation for church and youth groups, as well as offering camping sites for Scouts Guides and Duke of Edinburgh students.

### Picnic for teddies at rail attraction

TWO events will be held at stations on Cambrian Heritage Railway this weekend.

In Oswestry, a visiting steam engine will carry passengers on Saturday and Sunday.

And at Llyncllys, south of Oswestry, teddy bears of all shapes and sizes will come out to play on Sunday.

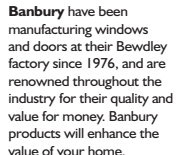
The teddy bears' picnic will include a prize bear hunt and a free ride on the train for children who bring their teddies. Refreshments will be available. Tickets cost £3 and trains will run from 11am to 4pm. For more information email [events@cambsianrailways.com](mailto:events@cambsianrailways.com)

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Show organisers ready for contests

PREPARATIONS are under way for the tug-of-war, archery, fun run and golf competitions which will take place at a village show next month.

The village of Leighton, near Welshpool, will host its annual show on September 5, starting at 2pm on the show field.

Show secretary Sally Green said there will be plenty to see and do.

"There will be lots of entertainment and traditional village skills demonstrated, and several new attractions are planned to add to the fun," she said. "There will be full show marquees bursting with entries in all sections from flowers to photos, crafts to cakes and everything in between. The vintage tea tent will be full of home-made cakes and treats."

Admission will cost £2.50 for adults with children free. For more details contact Sall on 07511 434793.

### Town to host a 1940s weekend

A 1940s weekend will be held in Welshpool as part of a plan of events to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of World War Two.

Welshpool Remembers, which has held a series of events across the town to mark the anniversary of VJ Day, will hold the event on September 5 and 6.

There will be people in dressed up in costumes from the period and a 1940s-style dance will be held on the Saturday night at Welshpool Town Hall.

Owners of civilian or military vehicles are welcome to exhibit their vehicles.

# Warning to shoppers over distraction thefts

Report by Andrew Morris

**SHOPPERS are being warned to be vigilant when paying using debit or credit cards after distraction thefts in two supermarket car parks.**

Dyfed-Powys Police said it has had incidents reported in both Newtown and Welshpool.

In both incidents a female shopper was watched putting her PIN into a machine and then followed out into the car park. When in the car park, a distraction was caused and attempts were made to remove the card from the victim's handbag.

Pc Steve Greenwood, of Newtown Police, said: "We are urging shoppers to be careful when using their cards to pay for goods in shops. A female shopper was watched in putting her PIN into a machine and then followed to her vehicle in Newtown."

"A distraction was then carried out and attempts were made to remove the debit card from her handbag. This happened on August 6 at 3.40pm."

"The male who is suspected of committing this offence is believed to be Eastern European and in his mid 20s."

Pc Greenwood added: "A second incident using the same technique has been reported at a shop in Welshpool on August 11. "These are concerning incidents that police are actively investigating."

"Be aware of people close-by as you enter your PIN. If necessary, ask people to move away. Protect your PIN by covering your hand as you enter the number."

## I think you missed a bit there, mate



It takes about 10 weeks for a gardener to get the high trimming completed

GARDENERS at Powis Castle are required to have a head for heights at this time of year as they begin clipping the enormous yew trees in the gardens.

Led by head gardener David Swanton, the team have mounted a cherry picker to trim all the famous yew tumps in a job that will take up to three months weeks to complete.

Mr Swanton said: "It's a huge task for us to get all the trimming done. Two gardeners spend six weeks trimming the box hedge and two more spend 12 weeks working on the yew. One gardener spends about 10 weeks in the air on this hydraulic cherry picker getting all the high trimming done."

"But all the work guarantees the hedges continue to look spectacular for the next 12 months."

The yews' unusual shape is a result of changing fashions. When they were planted in the 18th century, they were clipped into cones or pyramids. English landscape gardening then became popular and the hedges were allowed to grow naturally. In the Victorian era the yews were clipped back into shape.

## Villagers to gain benefit from funds

A CHARITABLE grants scheme that has been supporting a Powys village for more than 300 years is ready to hand out more vital funds.

The scheme, in Castle Caereinion, near Welshpool, receives money, land or other assets left in wills by local residents as well as income from leasing a local farm. Now it is ready to help local causes in the form of grants to members of the community.

The two current schemes include grants to elderly who may have difficulty meeting the increasing costs of living, while David Thomas Foundation grants are available to students who are undertaking further education or vocational training and have therefore obtained a place at college/university or are currently in education. They may relate to fees, travelling costs, special equipment or clothing.

In recent years, support has also been given to households with someone suffering from a long-term medical condition.

To apply write to Gilly Wood, The Clerk, C/O CCLW Henfaes Lane Welshpool Powys SY21 7BE by September 30.

## Seniors' group meeting date

THE next meeting of Welshpool and District U3A will be held on September 1.

The meeting will be held at the COWSHACC at 10am for a 10.30am start. For more information call 01686 668478 or visit [www.welshpooland-districtu3a.org.uk](http://www.welshpooland-districtu3a.org.uk)

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Annie Rogers looks over her AS levels with lecturer Faye Edwards at North Shropshire College, Oswestry



Alice Gillham and Maddy McCrann-Smith were delighted with their ABB and ACC grades

# Delight for students



Sharing in the success of students at the Marches Academy were Sarah Longville, principal, head of governors Arthur Walpole and head of sixth-form Clare Buckle

**NORTH** Shropshire College celebrated a seven per cent increase in grades A to C at A-level and a 100 per cent pass rate in 12 of the 17 subjects studied at A-level including maths, English language/literature, geography, history and ICT.

Jackie Doodson, principal and chief executive, said the college would offer 26 A-level subjects next year.

"I am delighted with our students results, particularly those in the arts area, which includes fine art, photography, graphics and textiles, who achieved a 100 per cent pass rate for the second year running.

"The high standard of work in the arts was exhibited in the college foyer at the Oswestry Campus throughout June and July.

## Report by Sue Austin

"The results are a tribute to the hard work of our students, the professionalism of our staff and the dedicated support of parents and guardians."

She said that with most results in place for BTEC Extended Diplomas – the vocational equivalent to A-levels – more than a third of students have achieved a triple-starred distinction, equivalent to three A's at A-level.

"We have continued the college's year-on-year improvement in our vocational provision," Mrs Doodson said.

There were beaming faces at North Shropshire's two Academy Trust schools today, as students and staff celebrated outstanding A-level results at The Marches, Oswestry, and Sir John Talbot's School, Whitchurch.

Annie Rogers, 17, from Pant near Oswestry,



Ishika Roy-Chowdhury and Holly Dempster-Edwards, from Moreton Hall, are off to Edinburgh and Oxford universities respectively



Twin sisters Sarah and Dani Valentine from Sir John Talbot's School, Whitchurch, toast to their success

in college to pick up her AS-level results, said: "I'm really looking forward to coming back to college for my next year of studies."

For The Marches, it was the first ever set of A-level results for the two-year-old sixth-form with a pass rate of more than 99 per cent and 41 per cent of entries at grades A\*-B.

### Achieved

At the Sir John Talbot's School, which joined the Marches Academy Trust last year, 68 per cent of students achieved one or more A\* - B grade a 24 per cent rise. Sir John Talbot's School joined The Marches Academy Trust last year.

Trust chief executive, Mrs Sarah Longville said: "These fantastic A-level results will give our students the key to open doors to a variety of academic and professional opportunities and we wish them the very best for the future."

Marches students Alice Gillham, 18, of Green End, Oswestry, and Maddy McCrann-Smith, 18 from Park Avenue, Oswestry, were delighted with their ABB and ACC grades.

"I am going to the University of Chester to do early child studies," Alice said.

Maddy, who will study media and communications in Birmingham said: "My parents can have their dining room table back now I have finished my A-levels."

At Moreton Hall School, near Oswestry, 67 per cent of grades achieved were A\*, A or B with a significant number of students achieving straight As and A's in their subjects.

Ishika Roy-Chowdhury, from Oswestry, will go on to study economics at Edinburgh having gained an A\* and two As in economics, maths and chemistry.

Meanwhile Holly Dempster-Edwards, also from Oswestry, achieved three A's in Spanish,

French and Latin and will take up her place at St Hilda's College, Oxford to read French and Spanish.

Adcote School saw an almost a 100 per cent pass rate, with 49 per cent of candidates gaining an A\* or A grade.

### Crucial

Among the success stories was Aleksandra Swiatkowska who achieved three A's and three A grades and Maria Derda who obtained two A's and an A grade.

Headmaster Gary Wright said: "Although exam results are by no means our only measure of success, academic performance is nevertheless crucial in helping our students achieve their aspirations. Our pupils excel academically as well as being involved in many varied aspects of the broad and balanced education that we provide."



Alexandra Pickles and Charlotte Ozanne celebrate their results at the Oswestry campus of North Shropshire College



# Friendly feel at successful school



Year 11 music scholar Ruby Mullins, from Shrewsbury, plays in the Great Hall. Musicianship is encouraged at Adcote School.

**ADCOTE School is a thriving boarding and day school that currently has 300 girls.**

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within 30 acres of landscaped parkland.

Adcote has begun a project of modernisation – the most significant development in its 107-year history. During the last academic year, new facilities have included a large sports centre, a science centre and an art and textile department, as well as new classrooms, catering facilities and boarding accommodation.

A-level results have again been excellent, with our leavers achieving an average of 498

UCAS points. There was almost a 100 per cent pass rate at A-level this year, with 49 per cent of all grades at A\* or A grade equivalent. In addition, nearly a quarter of all grades awarded were A\*s. We are proud of the achievements of each pupil. Adcote's outstanding A-level results, alongside success with entry into Oxbridge and other top universities, accounts for the growing number of sixth form pupils. Every Adcotian, when she leaves the school, should feel she has achieved all she can



All the school's pupils have a chance to develop their talents in the performing arts

both academically and intellectually. Self-confidence and poise distinguish our pupils and our teachers are dedicated to cultivating the strengths of each girl. The school also places emphasis on music, dance, drama and sport. Performing arts are included in the core curriculum to year 9 and thereafter voluntarily. Musicianship is encouraged and there are several choirs. There are extra-curricular workshops in dance and drama with performances several times a year.

The school offers means-tested bursaries and scholarships to outstanding pupils who would not otherwise be able to benefit from the education we provide.

A prospectus may be obtained from the admissions team by calling 01939 260202 or by emailing [admissions@adcoteschool.co.uk](mailto:admissions@adcoteschool.co.uk).

We encourage all interested families to visit the school and see it in action. Our next networking open days are on October 1 and November 28.

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Ffion Jones, Ellen Evans and James Crossbey find a comfy place to sit



Colleen Williams and Pat Evans represented NSPCC Llanfyllin and Bwlch-y-Cibav



Sally-Anne Woodcock from Ellesmere at the wheel of a tractor

# Show's a huge hit

Report by Dominic Robertson

**ORGANISERS** hailed a fantastic day of family entertainment at last weekend's Llanfyllin Show as thousands of people turned out for the annual event.

The show's horticulture secretary, Bethan Jones, said the weather had played a big part as people flocked to enjoy the day.

She said: "It has been really really good. We were worried about the weather but it stayed fine and calm, which was great."

"We have had crowds of people here and had some great competition in the shearing and in the main tent with the horticulture."

About 4,000 people attended the show which is held at Bodfach Hall and they were treated to a host of entertainment. Sheepdog trials, stunt shows in the main ring, show-jumping, a donkey derby and vintage vehicles just some of those on offer.

Mrs Jones praised the standard of entries in the horticulture section, saying: "The judge said the standard in the local section was some of the highest they have seen so it just shows how many people are out there growing."

Mrs Jones also said they had been thrilled at the amount of people who had attended the show.

She said: "There have been so many people, it is just packed out. People have been saying we just cannot get around in one day now because there is so much to do."

Mrs Jones also praised the commitment of the organisers towards making sure the community were able to enjoy the show.

She said: "The volunteers, the committee, they all come together and put in some really hard work to make the show a success. It is a real community effort."



The sheep shearing event saw a high standard of competition, organisers said. Morgan Morris from Llangollen was among the competitors.



Show visitors were able to take a look at a display of vintage vehicles



Showjumpers attracted a large number of spectators



Winston Roberts brought along his 1950s deep-well water pump to the event



# Growing firm proud to be local



Paul Huxley Construction produces quality, affordable steel-framed buildings in plenty of sizes and for a range of uses

**PAUL Huxley Construction, a leading manufacturer of steel-framed buildings, is one of the most recent companies to move on to Rednal Industrial Estate.**

Director Paul Huxley wanted his business to be located both close to his home and centrally within England and Wales.

And with expansion a strong possibility in the coming years, he was also impressed by the potential for growth at the industrial estate.

Paul, who has been in the steel-framed building industry for 25 years, has seen his own business grow quickly in just one year.

He said: "It is quite daunting starting your own company but I was convinced it would be a success with my experience and knowledge. "In the first year, turnover has increased

250 per cent and we're now one of the biggest companies at Rednal."

Staff numbers at Paul Huxley Construction have also grown.

Paul said: "I started with two office staff and two welders in the workshop. I now have four office staff, 10 in the workshop and yard, a southern-based sales person and three erecting teams travelling the country. In addition, I've developed close links with other compa-

nies, many locally, to offer our complete design, manufacture and build package."

Paul says he spotted a gap in the market for the supply of quality yet affordable steel-framed buildings for agricultural, industrial and equestrian use.

Proud to be a British manufacturer, with all materials sourced from UK suppliers and locally where possible, the company has manufactured more than 150 buildings in its first

year of trade. They make both kit and customised steel framed buildings in a wide range of sizes and for many uses.

Paul said: "I want to build a good reputation and to encourage repeat customers so I keep a very close eye on manufacturing and staff."

"So far, it's been great as we have been frequently praised for our high quality products, prices and also for customer care and professionalism."

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# 16 Icon of saint on display

A newly commissioned icon of St Oswald created by Romanian iconographer Angela Ludosanu has gone on display.

The icon was created to commemorate the Feast Day of St Oswald on August 5 and is now on display in the town which bears the saint's name, Oswestry.

Ms Ludosanu created the image using the traditional materials, methods and rules of eastern Christian iconography, which go back to the third century or earlier.

She said: "Much research has gone into the historical details and stories of King Oswald to create an icon which incorporates elements of his features and associated symbols."

"Contemporary writings describe King Oswald as having 'arms of great length and power, eyes bright blue, hair yellow, face long and beard thin, and his small lips wearing a kindly smile'."

Mike Coppock, from Rowanthorn, a gift shop where the icon is currently on display, said: "The new icon of St Oswald combines the traditional Byzantine style with elements of mediaeval English manuscripts."

"This won't be the icon's permanent home, and it is hoped to eventually find somewhere much more appropriate."

Icons are an important part of eastern Christian worship, prayer and teaching, and were used across the whole of the Christian world until the Reformation in Western Europe in the 16th century.

More recently, the use of icons in western Christianity, and especially in the Church of England, has enjoyed a resurgence.

The icon is being displayed at Rowanthorn, Old Chapel Court, English Walls, until August 31.

# Michaela's visit lifts project



TV Wildlife presenter Michaela Strachan with Emyr Evans

**WILDLIFE presenter Michaela Strachan surprised staff and volunteers at a wildlife project by dropping in to hand over thousands of pounds after it was voted the UK's best environment project.**

Michaela visited the Dyfi Osprey Project, near Machynlleth, to present the organisation with £2,000 to spend on its 360 Observatory. The observation point received 10,246 votes in the National Lot-

tery Awards.

Michaela said she had "fallen in love" with the ospreys Monty and Nora, and then Monty's current partner Glesni, while filming Springwatch at the project two years ago and in 2011.

"I knew the project but I was absolutely gobsmacked with the changes since we last came," she said. "The 360 Observatory is really impressive. It's very professional. It brings nature to life, allowing people to interact with ospreys and other wildlife up close, not just for visitors, but also for those around the world enjoying a nest-eye view of ospreys via webcam."



Michaela and volunteers from Dyfi Osprey Project celebrate the award from the National Lottery

"This year's fledglings have been caught on camera, from their parents' nesting, to hatching, feeding, fledging and, we hope, soon migrating. You feel like you're immersed in the wildlife as you walk along the boardwalk and look out from the observatory. When we were filming with Springwatch here I fell in love with Monty. He's a particularly handsome bird."

The project, run by Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust, received a £1.4m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2012 to build its 360 Observatory and the completed building was one of six shortlisted out of 620 projects in the

environment section of the awards.

Staff and volunteers noticed Michaela filming on the nature reserve, but were stunned when she went into the observatory and told them they had won. "They thought we were just filming generally and then I went in and said yes, we're filming, but I'm here to tell you something quite exciting," Michaela said.

Project manager Emyr Evans said the money will be spent on a lift to allow people who can't manage the stairs to get to the upper viewing windows. The presentation was filmed for National Lottery Stars and will be broadcast on

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# Retailers' milk price pledges 'not enough'

PROMISES from supermarkets to pay more for milk are not enough, dairy farmers in Shropshire have said. Farmers across the county have welcomed plans for Asda and Aldi to pay 28 pence per litre for all of its liquid milk, while Morrisons have agreed a price of 26p per litre and pledged to introduce cheese and milk products that will give cash back to farmers. But the farmers have said it is not sufficient to solve the crisis. Andrew Bebb, who farms in Hanwood, said: "It is not enough. The farmer needs about 30 pence per litre to survive and if we say 28ppl is passed to Arla you can take off four pence per litre for haulage and transport costs. "Then suddenly the farmer is left with only 23 or 24ppl which is not enough." Morrisons – which saw protests at its Oswestry store earlier this month – announced that from the end of August it will pay a new price of 26ppl after a meeting with farmers' representatives. The move was followed by Aldi and Asda announcing that they would pay 28ppl.

# Castle moat is ideal setting for fun day



Members of Whittington Medieval Guild showed off their sword skills in battle re-enactments

NOT quite messing about on the river – but a castle moat provided the perfect way to spend a sunny afternoon in a Shropshire village. Whittington Castle hosted a family fun day in and around the ancient monument in the latest in its programme of events to bring people into the village. The fun day, to raise money for the continued running of the castle as a tourism and education attraction, included living history demonstrations, children's crafts and games, canoeing and even a teddy bear boat launch. Over the last 15 years the castle has been transformed from lying unused, save for a toilet block at the back, to being a hive of activity. It holds regular events, with everything from children's parties and weddings to re-enactment weekends and event paranormal vigils taking place. Throughout the summer the castle building and its tea room is open from Wednesdays to Sundays. Castle manager Sue Ellis said the building had become a favourite venue for re-enactors. "Such events are bringing history to life and getting people to engage with their history," she said. "It's accessible for children as it's more fun than reading a book." She said that a multi-period re-enactment weekend from the 12th century to the Second World War was already booked for July 2016 with a Viking group already planning to take part. The castle, officially reopened in 2007, is run by the Whittington Castle Preservation Trust.

# Energy company turns on new £22million power line

A new £22 million power line has been switched on to secure electricity supplies for more than 130,000 homes and businesses across north Shropshire and Mid Wales. Power company SP Energy Networks said that the new line was the most significant power upgrade in the region for more than 20 years. Construction has been under way on the project since October last year after planning consent was granted in May 2013. The full scheme consists of 5km of underground cables and 21km of overhead wooden pole lines. Mark Sobczak, head of 132kv programmes at SP Energy Networks, said more than 150 people had been involved in the construction and the design of the project. He said: "This is an important long-term power upgrade for homes and businesses in Mid Wales, north Shropshire and south Wrexham. Major infrastructure projects like this are designed to ensure that we can continue to offer those high levels of reliability for decades to come."

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# Llangollen Horsedrawn Boat Centre

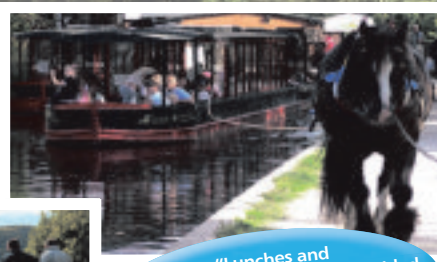
## Boat trips along the Dee Valley World Heritage site

### Horsedrawn Boat Trips

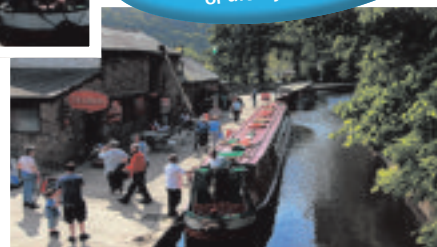
Enjoy the peace and tranquility of a horsedrawn boat trip on the upper reaches of the Llangollen Canal, pulled by one of our gorgeous heavy horses. Boats are covered for all weather trips. 2 hour and 45 minute trips are available

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A 2 hour cruise on our fully weatherproofed, centrally heated boat over the mighty Pontcysyllte Aqueduct a World Heritage site. Full commentary with bar and snacks available.



"Lunches and Welsh Cream Teas can be provided in our tea room either before or after your trip"



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Est 1884

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www.horsedrawnboats.co.uk



## Advertisement feature

# Take in stunning sights on canal boat journey



Horse-drawn and motorised boat trips make an excellent day out for families and groups of friends

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From Llangollen Wharf you can embark on either a horse-drawn boat trip along the feeder for the main canal, or a motorised journey which takes you across the famous Pontcysyllte Aqueduct built by Thomas Telford.

Both these boat trips start from the Llangollen Horsedrawn Boat Centre and take in the magical sights and sounds of the beautiful Llangollen Canal. Longer horse-drawn trips can be arranged for large groups. Lunches and cream teas can be pre-ordered for the aqueduct trips.

We also have a self-steer day-hire boat for groups of up to 10 people. The purpose-built 32' narrowboat, called the 'Dydd Un', is an ideal way to take a leisurely cruise along the Llangollen Canal and across the unforgettable

Pontcysyllte Aqueduct. This is a perfect way for a family, group of friends or a corporate team to have their own private boat for the day.

The tea room and gift shop at Llangollen Wharf is located in the old canal warehouse. All our food is prepared and cooked on the premises. Welsh cream teas are available along with our own home-made scones and bara brith, complemented by jam and clotted cream.

The tea room is open every day from now until early November 2015.

## SHEEP DOG TRIALS - TOMORROW - 8.00AM

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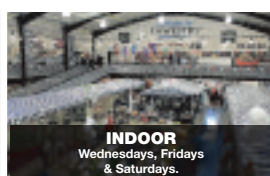
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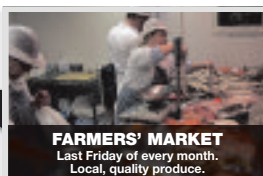
Contact us for more information on our events. SY11 4JH - Main A5 just outside Oswestry



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# ↑Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING



## Luxury executive home is superbly designed

A luxury executive home, 3 Troad Y Cynniau in Penybontfawr has been designed to an exacting standard.

Located in the heart of the Tanat Valley, it is for sale through Halls at £449,000.

Environmentally friendly with solar panels and a water harvesting system, it has a triple-aspect entrance hall and tiled flooring, an elegant reception hall with wooden flooring

and under-floor heating and a staircase off and W.C. There is a kitchen with an Aga range with four ovens, two hot plates and a warming plate, an extractor hood, microwave combination oven and grill, larder fridge, tiled flooring and a space for a dining table. There is also a utility room, a dining room with under-floor heating, a home office, a superb lounge with a wood-burning stove,

a garden room with a bi-fold door out to the rear garden and solid oak floor, master suite with a dressing room and en-suite, a bathroom, bedroom two en-suite and three further bedrooms. Outside a five-bar gate opens to a parking area for four cars and there is a garage and front, side and rear gardens. For further information contact Halls on 01691 670320 or visit [www.hallsgb.com](http://www.hallsgb.com)



## Property in village still has attractive original features

Town & Country is pleased to offer this unique six bedroom house with original features. Currently split into two semis providing a four bedroom property and a two bedroom annexe/semi, the property is located in the beautiful village of Glyn Ceiriog. This would be an ideal opportunity to turn one of the properties into a bed and breakfast/holiday let or change them back into a large family home. The property is on the market for £265,000. Contact Town & Country on 01691 679631.



## Cottages in village present an investment opportunity

1&2 Bwythyn Derw Cottages at Bwlch-y-Cibau comprise a highly desirable investment opportunity consisting of a pair of converted cottages, ideal for letting out on either short term or long term assured shorthold tenancies. The cottages are of stone elevation under pitched slated roofs having been converted approximately 10 years ago. They are for sale for £190,000 through Halls. For more details contact Halls on 01938 555552.



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RICS

**6 Llys Court, Oswestry £115,000**

End terrace bungalow. Lounge and fitted kitchen. Two bedrooms, modern fitted bathroom. Gas fired central heating. Partial double glazing. Enclosed landscaped rear garden. Allocated parking to the fore. EPC Rating = 64 (D)

**11 Parc Llwyfen, Elm Tree Pk, Llanymynech £299,950**

Detached four bedroom house and garage. Two receptions, study, kitchen and utility. Family bathroom and en-suite shower. Gas-fired central heating, double glazing. Enclosed and well maintained rear garden. Pleasant recent established estate. Close to village amenities and A483. EPC Rating = 62 (D)

**Cefyncoed, Vine Square, Brook St, Llanfyllin £95,000**

Detached Grade II Listed Town Property requiring upgrading. Living Room, Kitchen/Dining. Two Bedrooms, Bathroom. Oil Fired Heating. Enclosed front garden. Rear yard. Within 100 yards of the town centre. Located within a conservation area. Energy efficiency rating = 1 (G)

**41 Bron Y Buckley, Welshpool £119,950**

Semi-Detached House with gardens. Kitchen with built-in oven and hob. Living/Dining Room. 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Separate W.C. Gas fired heating. Part double glazed. Terraced rear garden. Convenient to the town centre & infant school. First Time Buyer/Investment. Energy efficiency rating = 58 (D).

**9 Little Henfaes Drive, Welshpool £145,000**

Detached Two Bedroomed Bungalow. Sitting Room, Kitchen, Bathroom. Gravelled Frontage. Detached Garage. Side driveway and parking. Paved rear garden. Greenhouse. Gas fired heating. Double Glazed. Within a few minutes walk from Tesco's. Vacant Possession. Energy efficiency rating = TBC

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

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1 Bed 1st/F Flat, Gas C/Heating, FTE, No Pets, (EER=65) (£395 dep).....	£295 pcm
1 Bed G/F Flat, Gas C/Heating, FTE, No Pets, (EER=59) (£440 dep).....	£340 pcm
2 Bed G/F Flat, Flat, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=63) (£550 dep).....	£450 pcm
2 Bed Mid-Terr House, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=58) (£595 dep).....	£495 pcm

**LLANYMYNECH**

2 Bed End Terr, House, Oil C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=77) (£575 dep).....	£475 pcm
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3 Bed Semi-Det, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=52) (£595 dep).....	£495 pcm
3 Bed House, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=79) (£695 dep).....	£595 pcm

**ELLESMERE**

3 Bed Barn Conversion, Oil C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=21) (£850 dep).....	£750 pcm
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**LLANFYLLIN**

2 Bed Mid-Terr, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=77) (£485 dep).....	£395 pcm
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Fees: Application Fee: £40. Lease Fee: £132

**139 College Road, Oswestry £134,950**

Three bedroom semi detached house. Lounge, kitchen/diner, Cloaks. Master en-suite shower, family bathroom. Gas-fired central heating and double glazing. Fully enclosed rear garden. Single garage and ample on-site parking. Close to excellent local amenities. EPC Rating = 73 (C)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

**114 Gungrog Hill, Welshpool £177,500**

Modern Detached House. Sitting & Dining Rooms, Kitchen, Utility, Main Bedroom with En-suite. Three further Bedrooms, Bathroom. Gas Fired Heating. Double Glazed. Single Garage with ample driveway. Front garden. Terraced rear garden/patio. Views across the Severn Valley. NO CHAIN. Energy efficiency rating = 68

Welshpool Office 01938 554818

**Pentre Lodge, Leighton £375,000**

Detached, Semi Rural House with Land. 2 Reception Rooms, Kitchen/Dining Room. 4 Double Bedrooms, Bathroom. Separate W.C. Cellar. Secondary glazing. Oil fired heating. Detached half timbered outbuilding. Garage. Ample Gardens. 4.7 Acre Paddock. Views across the Severn Valley. Energy efficiency rating = 33

Welshpool Office 01938 554818

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**Garage/Workshop, Llanidloes GUIDE PRICE: £8,000**

Detached brick garage/workshop 4.6m x 10.5m. Car parking space. Potential change of use/conversion - subject to receiving the necessary planning consents.

Llanidloes Office 01686 412567

**1 Orchard Villas, Caersws GUIDE PRICE: £120,000**

Deceptively Spacious Village Property. Located in popular village with good amenities. Inspection recommended to appreciate the accommodation. Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms (1 with en suite), Spacious & Useful 2nd Floor Loft Room/Potential 3rd Bedroom. Large rear garden. EPC Rating = 56

Newtown Office 01686 626160

**Flat 1, Neuadd, Aberdyfi GUIDE: £130,000 - £135,000**

Spacious ground floor apartment. Economy 7 heating. Stunning estuary views. 1/2 Bedroom accommodation. Close proximity to village amenities. EPC Rating = 33

Tywyn | Office 01654 710388

**Bryn y Mor, Rhoslefain GUIDE: £160,000 - £170,000**

Situated in an elevated position with stunning coastal and inland views. A rare opportunity to acquire a coastal detached two bedroom bungalow in a quiet rural location. 4 miles to the coastal town of Tywyn. Well maintained throughout with landscaped terraced gardens. Double glazed throughout. EPC Rating = 22

Tywyn | Office 01654 710388

**Cleveland's, Station Rd, Gobowen GUIDE PRICE: £85,000**

Mid terraced character house. Three reception rooms and kitchen. Four bedrooms and bathroom. Enclosed private rear garden. Central village location. Requiring modernisation works. All mains services connected. EPC Rating = 26 (F)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

**Blaen y Cwm, Cefn Mawr GUIDE PRICE: £40,000**

A Rural Detached Cottage requiring complete modernisation. Offering great potential to extend/refurbish or rebuild all subject to planning. Distance to Council highway 400 metres. Situated in grounds of approx 1.41 acres (0.57 hectares) which are overgrown. Market town of Newtown approximately 2 miles. Situated in the heart of Mid Wales

Newtown Office 01686 626160

**417 Llys Dulas, Trehafren GUIDE PRICE: £80,000**

Modern 3 Storey Town House in cul-de-sac setting. Spacious accommodation, convenient to town & amenities. Gas fired central heating. Double glazed. Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Dining Room, Kitchen, Lounge, 5 Bedrooms, Bathroom. Easy maintenance front & rear gardens. EPC Rating = 65

Newtown Office 01686 626160

**Land at Pool Quay, Welshpool GUIDE PRICE: £30,000**

Roadside Accommodation/Amenity Land. Extending to 4.26 Acres (or thereabouts). Vehicular access via Rhydesgyn Lane. Adjoins the Wern Brook. Useful Pony Paddock.

Welshpool Office 01938 554818

**1 Tan y Foel, Eglwysfach GUIDE PRICE: £75,000 - £85,000**

Mid Terrace Cottage. In need of modernisation and refurbishment. Centrally positioned location. Close to Ynysir Bird Reserve. 3 Bedrooms. Large terraced rear garden. Off road parking. Energy Efficiency Rating = 20.

Aberystwyth Office 01970 625020

 Aberystwyth 01970 625020  
Llanidloes 01686 412567  
Machynlleth 01654 702472

 Newtown 01686 626160  
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**Oswald Close Oswestry** £274,995

- An immaculately presented and ideally located detached property
- Occupying a private position within a small development of similar properties
- Living room, Sitting room, dining room, Kitchen, Utility, Cloaks
- Master bed with en-suite, Bed 2 with en-suite, 3 further beds & Family bathroom
- There are good sized gardens to rear while the Brynhafof playing fields are also nearby
- Gas C/H, hardwood double glazing and driveway to the front. EPC rating C



**School Road Ruyton XI Towns** £250,000

- An excellent period family home extending to 4 bedrooms
- The property has been tastefully extended and renovated
- Entrance Hall, Dining Room, Lounge, Kitchen, Utility
- Ground Floor Shower Rm & adjoining Living Room/Ground Floor Bed
- 3 Bedrooms, Study and Family Bathroom.
- Courtyard styled private gardens and off road parking
- UPVC double glazing and Oil C/H. EPC Rating G



**Victoria Road Oswestry** £129,995

- A well positioned and deceptively spacious 2 Bedroom End Terrace Property
- Situated within an excellent location within easy walking distance of Oswestry town centre
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, 2 Double Bedrooms and Bathroom.
- Private rear garden and ample off road parking for two vehicles.
- uPVC double glazed windows and Gas central heating. EPC Rating
- This property should be of interest to first time buyers and investor purchasers.



**Liwyn Road Oswestry** £114,995

- A deceptively spacious and well presented 2 Bedroom Mid Terrace Property
- Open plan Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen
- 2 first floor Bedrooms and Family bathroom
- Excellent rear garden. Utility/Storage Room separate garden with shed
- uPVC double glazing, Gas C/H & damp proof course. EPC Rating D



**Overton Road St Martins** £239,950

- An immaculately presented 4 Double Bedroom Detached Family Home
- The property was constructed in 2000
- Reception Hall, Cloaks, Kitchen Diner, Utility Room, Lounge,
- Large Master Bedroom (en-suite) 3 further double bedrooms & Family Bathroom
- Ample off road parking for at least 4 cars,
- Large garage, private courtyard style gardens to the front and rear
- Gas central heating and uPVC double glazing. EPC Rating C



**Lutton Close Oswestry** £225,000

- A most impressive and high specification 4 Bedroom Townhouse
- Offering spacious and flexible accommodation. Constructed in 2007
- Wide Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Large Sitting/Dining Room
- Feature Kitchen with integrated appliances and granite working surfaces
- Study, 4 Excellent Bedrooms, En-Suite, Shower Room and Family Bathroom
- D/G, Gas C/H, alarm system, integral garage
- Ample parking to the fore and views to the rear. EPC Rating C



**Breidden Close Oswestry** £184,995

- A spacious 3 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Entrance Hall, Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen
- Cloakroom, 3 Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Enclosed rear garden together with driveway
- Off-road parking, carport and detached garage
- Lawned garden to the front of the property
- Gas C/H and double glazing. EPC Rating D



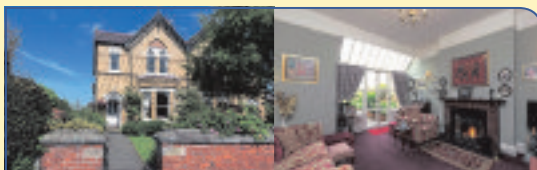
**Park Street Oswestry** £267,500

- Spacious and well presented 4 Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Situated on a generous corner plot in a popular residential area
- Entrance Hall, Family Room/Study, Dining Room, Lounge
- Kitchen, Utility, 4 Bedrooms (master en-suite) & Family Bathroom
- Private off road parking, single detached garage
- Well maintained front and rear gardens.
- Gas central heating and double glazing. EPC Rating D



**High Fawr Avenue Oswestry** £359,995

- An executive detached family home situated within a large corner plot
- Entrance Porch, Large Entrance Hall, Lounge with Conservatory off
- Dining Room, Study, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility, Cloakroom
- Four Double Beds (Master En-Suite Shower Room) & Luxury Bathroom
- Fully landscaped gardens, small stream & views over open fields
- Patio area and parking & Double garage. Security system
- Double glazing, Gas C/H, cavity wall insulation. EPC Rating D



**Queen's Road Oswestry** £360,000

- A superbly appointed Period Residence set in one of Oswestry's most desirable locations
- The deceptively spacious living accommodation is spread over 3 floors
- Entrance Hall, Cloaks, Lounge, Living Room, Dining Room
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room and Rear Hallway, Shower room
- The Cellars have been converted into spacious Guest Suite with En-Suite Shower Rm
- 4 further Bedrooms (1 with En-Suite Shower Rm), Study & Family Bathrm
- Front & rear gardens, single garage & off-road parking. Gas C/H. EPC Rating F



**Barber Close Oswestry** £175,000

- Well presented & spacious 3/4 Bedroom Townhouse
- Ent Hall, Kitchen/Dining Room, Utility Room
- Cloakroom, Study/Bedroom 4
- On 1st floor, Lounge, Bedrm & Family Bathrm
- 2 further larger Bedrms (master en-suite)
- Private garden, garage & rear parking area
- Gas C/H and D/G. EPC Rating C



**School Lane Gobowen** £184,995

- A deceptively spacious 4 Bedroom Link Detached Dormer Bungalow
- The property has been maintained to a high standard
- Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Kitchen, Dining Room/Bed 3
- Bedroom 2, Bathroom, Lounge and 2 further First Floor Bedrooms
- Good plot with ample off road parking, garaging
- Private and well established rear garden
- Double glazing, Gas C/H and solar panels. EPC Rating C

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**norman lloyd**





## Traditional home with large farmhouse kitchen

Ty Mawr at Llansantffraid is a traditional Welsh longhouse with generous and adaptable accommodation. It is on the market for £475,000 through Halls.

The accommodation has a large farmhouse kitchen, back kitchen, shower room, study/reception room, main dining hall with two staircases off, inner lobby to WC and separate living room. On the first floor there is a master bedroom with en-suite bathroom and walk-in wardrobes, as well as four further bedrooms and two bath/shower rooms. For more details contact Halls on 01938 555552.



## Home has well appointed accommodation

A large detached Edwardian family village house, Sunnyside on Station Road in Whittington offers exceptionally well appointed accommodation throughout. The property is on the market with JJ Dell & Co for £269,950. Accommodation includes an entrance hall, cloakroom, three reception rooms and a breakfast/kitchen. Upstairs there are four bedrooms and a large family bathroom. The property also has a sewing room. The property is set back from the road and is approached over a concreted drive providing ample car parking and access to garaging. For more details contact JJ Dell and Co on 01691 653437 or 680212.



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£119,950

### OSWESTRY



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- Dining Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms And Loft Room
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- Rear Garden
- Walking Distance Of Town & Woodside School
- EPC Band - E
- JJD853

OFFERS OVER £124,950

### GOBOWEN



- Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Living Room
- Dining Room
- Extended Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Ample Car Parking
- Large rear Garden
- Decked Patio/BBQ Area
- EPC Band - F
- JJD840

OFFERS ON £149,950

### ST. MARTINS



- Detached House Occupying Pleasant Rural Position
- Opportunity for further improvement
- GFCH
- D/G & Secondary D/G
- Sitting Room & Living Room
- Dining Kitchen
- 3 Good Sized Bedrooms
- Garaging
- Good Sized Garden
- EPC Band D
- JJD805

GUIDE PRICE £210,000

### GWERN-Y-BRENIN



- Fully Renovated Country Property
- OFCH & D/Glazing
- Living Room
- Dining Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms (One En-Suite)
- Approx. Three Quarter Acre South Facing Plot
- Three Berth Stable And Store
- EPC Band - E
- JJD878

NO CHAIN. OFFERS OVER £350,000

### PANT, NR. OSWESTRY



- Oil Fired Central Heating
- Entrance Porch
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Breakfast/Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Enclosed Front Garden
- Parking for 4/5 cars
- Workshop
- Includes B/Plot with Full P/P for Dwelling
- EPC Band F
- JJD807

GUIDE PRICE £350,000

### GOBOWEN



- Detached Three Bedroom Split Level House
- GFCH, D/G
- Impressive Lounge
- Dining Room
- Breakfast Kitchen & Utility
- Garage & Car Parking
- Attractive Patio Garden
- Elevated Position
- Overlooking Village
- EPC Band D
- JJD781

£198,500

### LLANMYNECH



- Three Bed. Semi-Det. House
- GFCH & UPVC D/G
- Cloakroom
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- En-Suite And Bathroom
- Parking
- Rear Garden And Patio
- Walking Distance Of Village Amenities
- EPC Band - C
- JJD862

OFFERS ON £134,500

### OSWESTRY



- Ideal Starter Home Or Investment
- GFCH & PVC D/G
- Entrance Porch
- Living Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Utility
- Three Bedrooms
- Front And Rear Gardens
- Garage & Parking
- EPC Band - C
- JJD880

£100,000

### GOBOWEN



- Close Care Residential
- Two Bed. Bungalow
- Attractive Purpose Built Complex
- CH & DG
- Lounge/Dining Area
- Kitchen
- UPVC Conservatory
- Enclosed Paved Yard
- Short Walking Distance To Office
- Rear Vehicle Access And Parking Area
- EPC Band - E
- JJD870

£89,950

### CHURCH STREET, OSWESTRY



- Excellent ground floor retail shop unit
- Occupying busy trading position
- Available on a new Lease
- Overall shop frontage 19'
- Internal Width (Max) 16'2"
- Internal Depth (Max) 74'
- Side Entrance
- Toilet
- Cellarage
- Two rear store rooms
- EPC Band - D
- JJD071

RENT PER ANNUM - £15,750

### OSWESTRY - BUILDING PLOT



- Good sized building plot
- Approx. 720 sq. metres
- Sought after residential area
- P/permission for detached bungalow with double Garage
- Reasonable level walking distance of Town
- We understand all mains services are available to site
- JJD787

£154,750

OSWESTRY (01691) 653437 - (01691) 680212







## Mid terrace home is an ideal first time buy

A three bedroom mid terrace property, 31 Blackfriars, Oswestry, has no chain and is an ideal first time buy or investment property. It is for sale through Town & Country for £119,950.

The property has recently been redecorated and carpeted throughout.

Accommodation at the property briefly comprises hallway, cloakroom, lounge and kitchen/diner. Upstairs there are three bedrooms and a family bathroom. The property benefits from gas central heating and uPVC throughout. For more details contact Town & Country on 01691 679631.

**TOWN & COUNTRY**  
Tel : 01691 679631



## Immaculate 1880s home has great views

Wern Ddu Farm at Penybontfawr is an immaculate and well-appointed detached house dating back to the 1880s, which comes with outbuildings and a 5.5-acre paddock and superb views.

It is for sale through Halls at £395,000. It has a reception hall, a formal lounge, a kitchen and utility room.

There is also a WC, a dining room, a conservatory/garden room, a master bedroom en-suite, bedroom two with a wardrobe and en-suite, a bathroom and bedroom three with a recessed double wardrobe.

For further information contact Halls on 01691 670320 or visit [www.hallsgb.com](http://www.hallsgb.com)

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**Balfours**  
PROPERTY PROFESSIONALS



## Buttington, Welshpool, Powys

An attractive Grade II listed Georgian house with a large garden and separate office set in a beautiful rural yet convenient location

3 Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Breakfast Room, Laundry,  
3 En Suite Bedrooms, 2 Further Bedrooms, Family Bathroom,  
Cellar presently used as store and games room,  
Double Garage, Office, Gardens

About 1.4 acres  
Guide Price £595,000

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# TOWN & COUNTRY

Tel :01691 679631

## LETTINGS

- Oswestry, 2 bed Retirement Apt £350pcm
- Oswestry, 1 bed apt £350 pcm
- Llanrhaeadr, 3 Bed Semi £495pcm
- Pontrobert, 4 bedroom detached £650pcm
- Oswestry, 3 Bed Semi Detached £675pcm
- Oswestry, 2 bed Semi Bungalow - £480pcm
- Oswestry, 2 Bed Mid-Terrace
- Oswestry, 1 Bed Flat - £295pcm
- Park Hall - 3 Bed End Terrace - £550pcm
- Oswestry - 1 Bed Apartment - £475pcm
- Oswestry - 1 Bed Apartment - £475 pcm
- Morda - 2 Bed Flat - £450 pcm
- Oswestry - 2 Bed Mid Terrace - £475 pcm
- Weston Rhyn - 3 Bed Det House -

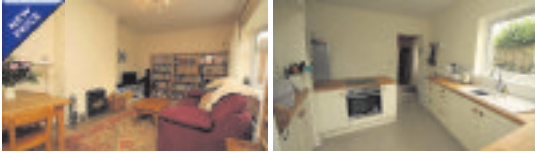
## GOBOWEN



- NO CHAIN
- Two Bedroom House
- Modernised Throughout
- Views To The Rear
- Ideal Investment/ FTB
- Good Sized Rear Garden

£88,950

## NR OSWESTRY



- NO CHAIN!!
- Delightful Two Bedroom
- Semi-Detached Cottage
- Gas Central Heating
- uPVC Double Glazing
- Close to Local Amenities

£97,950

## BROWNHILL, RUYTON X1 TOWNS



- Delightful Detached Cottage
- Popular Village Location
- FIRST TIME BUY
- INVESTMENT PROPERTY
- Fully Renovated
- One Bedroom
- En-Suite
- Kitchen/Diner
- Lounge
- Courtyard Garden
- uPVC Double Glazing
- Remote Controlled Electric Heating
- VIEWING ADVISED

£129,950

## OSWESTRY



- Modern Detached Park Home
- Three Bedrooms
- En Suite Facilities
- Two Reception Rooms
- Gardens
- Driveway

£132,500

## LLANSILIN



- Charming Cottage
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Adjoining Barn
- Utility & W.C.
- Enclosed Garden
- Study/Nursery. EPC F

Offers over £150,000

## PENYBONTFAWR



- VIEWING ESSENTIAL
- Detached Family Property
- 5 Bedrooms
- 4 Reception Rooms
- 4 Bathrooms
- Garage/Ample off Road Parking
- Sun Room
- Large Garden
- Oil Fired Central Heating
- Solar Panels

£475,000

## TREFONEN



- VIEWING RECOMMENDED
- Three Bedroom. EPC D.
- Semi-Detached
- Ample Off-Road Parking
- Conservatory
- Utility Room

Offers in the region of £155,000

## ST MARTINS



- Semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Modernised
- 100 foot garden
- Countryside views to rear
- Off street parking

£155,000

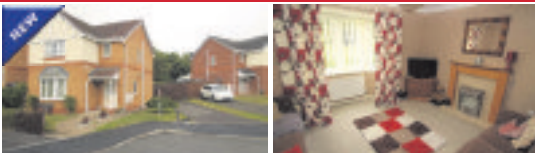
## FOXEN MANOR, FOUR CROSSES



- Extended Four Bedroom Semi-Detached
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- Utility Room
- Ground Floor WC
- Master Bedroom with Ensuite

£165,000

## OSWESTRY



- Detached Three Bedroom
- Sought After Location
- Family Home
- Off-Road Parking
- Permission Granted for Garage
- uPVC Double Glazing

Offers in the region of £168,000

## OSWESTRY



- Spacious Detached
- Four Bedrooms
- Cul-de-Sac Location
- Landscaped Gardens

£199,950

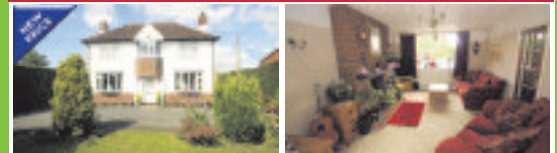
## CHIRK BANK



- GENEROUS ACCOMMODATION
- Semi Detached Cottage
- Three bedrooms
- Popular village location

Offers over £200,000

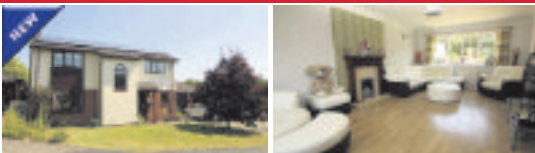
## GOBOWEN



- VIEWING RECOMMENDED
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Detached Former Farmhouse
- Bathroom/Shower Room
- Utility Room. EPC D
- Landscaped Gardens

£234,500

## GOBOWEN



- Four Bedroom Detached
- Immaculate Family Home
- Solar Panels
- Cloakroom
- Master En-suite
- uPVC Double Glazing

£237,500

## ST MARTINS



- Four Bedroom Detached
- Family Home
- Three Bathrooms
- Fully Modernised
- Triple & Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

£249,950

## MAESBURY MARSH



- Detached Dormer Bungalow
- Adjoining One Bed Annexe
- Four Bedrooms
- Ample Off Road Parking
- Modern Interior
- Conservatory/ 2 Bathrooms

Offers in the region of £259,950

## ARDDLEEN



- Large Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom And Ensuite
- Good Sized Gardens

£299,950

## LLANDRINIO



- NO CHAIN
- 5.9 Acres of Land
- Detached Country Cottage
- Original Features

£359,950

## MELVERLEY



- NO CHAIN!!!
- Approx 8 Acres
- Three Bedroom Cottage
- Stunning Views

£370,000

## LLANSILIN



- Farmhouse and Annexe
- Adjoining Paddock
- Stunning Location
- Ample Parking and Gardens

£400,000

## LLANGOLLEN



- Grade II Listed
- Victorian Mansion
- Five Bedroom Townhouse
- Uniquely Designed

£425,000

## COED Y GO, OSWESTRY



- NO CHAIN
- PART EXCHANGE CONSIDERED
- Stunning Barn Conversion
- Original Features

£435,000





## Recently refurbished detached bungalow has no chain

With no chain, Delfan, in Glyn Ceiriog is a delightful recently refurbished two bedroom detached cottage style bungalow. It is on the market through Town & Country for £129,950. Accommodation briefly comprises entrance hall, lounge/diner, kitchen, two bedrooms and shower room. To the outside the front of property has a paved parking space with a gated access to the side rear garden. The rear garden is mainly lawned with a seating area, two sheds, oil tank and planted borders. For more details contact Town & Country on 01691 679631.

**TOWN & COUNTRY**  
Tel: 01691 679631



## Home is situated on an exclusive modern development

Halls are delighted with instructions to offer 6 Redwood Close for sale by private treaty with an asking price of £425,000. The house is situated on an exclusive modern development in the popular and pretty village of Leighton. The accommodation laid out over two floors comprises reception hall, WC, cloaks, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, conservatory, dining room, lounge, large gallery landing, master bedroom with dressing room and ensuite bathroom, guest bedroom with ensuite bathroom, two further double bedrooms and large family bathroom. Contact Halls on 01938 710004 for more details.

**Halls**



## Spacious four bed home has been fully modernised

Unicorn Cottage, Middleton Road, Oswestry, is a spacious four bedroomed full modernised 19th century house with workshop and good sized garden. It is for sale for £214,950 through JJ Dell and Co and there is no chain. The property benefits from gas fired central heating and double glazing. The accommodation comprises a rear porch, breakfast kitchen, dining room/sitting room, four bedrooms and bathroom. For more details on the property contact JJ Dell and Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.

**J. J. DELL & Co.**



## Lovely home full of character sits on the edge of village

Rectory Coach House and Cottage in Threadneedle Street, West Felton includes a four-bedroomed converted coach house and self-contained detached two-bedroomed stone cottage. It is for sale through Halls Estate Agents at £645,000. Having a recently built triple garage and front and rear gardens the main building is set around an attractive cobbled courtyard. The property, which is full of character, is situated in a quiet and mature area on the edge of the village of West Felton. For further information contact Halls Estate Agents on 01691 670320 or visit [www.hallsgb.com](http://www.hallsgb.com)

**Halls**



# Pond dipping can uncover all sorts of water beasties

IN the unlikely event that someone is reading this who does not like wildlife in any way, I'd like to wager that you have at the very least been pond dipping at one moment or another in your lifetime.

It may be an activity associated with frog spawn and children but so what? Many a fine naturalist has honed their craft with a net and a jam jar. It's one of the best (and easiest) ways to excite the younger generation about the natural world and the wider countryside and the creatures you uncover can be truly impressive.

Ranking highly on many a child's list of nature-themed activities will also be 'keeping a pet' and I expect there'll be readers of this column whose first pet was of the stick insect variety. Adventures in the countryside, pond dipping and stick insects were certainly amongst my childhood passions but I didn't realise until later, that I could combine the two.

A lot of my pond dipping was done in America with mother ever ready to grab in the event that one of the many alligators fancied a dietary change. And so I missed out on what is perhaps the most impressive aquatic beastly to regularly be found in a child's dipping net – the water stick insect.

Like its terrestrial namesake, the water stick insect does what it says on the tin. Countless numbers will have been thrown back into the pond on the assumption they were dead twigs. But look closely and you'll

## ON THE WILDSIDE

with Ben Waddams



see a fascinating predator lurking amongst the weeds and mud.

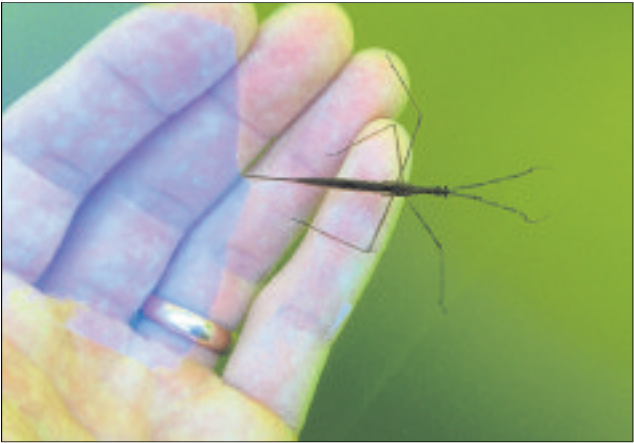
Superbly camouflaged, the water stick insect hides among reeds and stems where it waits to ambush its prey of small invertebrates, tadpoles and fish fry. It adopts a mantid-like pose when submerged and captures them in a similar fashion – by striking out with its needle sharp front legs.

Like its closely related cousin, the water scorpion, the water stick insect uses a long, thin 'tail' as a siphon for breathing. This protrudes above the water's surface and acts just like a snorkel. Although it has the unfortunate resemblance to a sting, the siphon and the insect itself is completely harmless.

Up to 70mm long and red-brown in colour when mature, the water stick insect is not just impressive in length and camouflage. Just like in its terrestrial namesakes, it has wings that are folded neatly against the abdomen.

Although it probably only rarely, if ever uses its wings for flight, they are there for a reason. They act as an escape strategy, allowing it to leave pools that are in danger of drying up or simply to colonize new sites.

Mating occurs in the spring and the eggs are laid soon after on floating plants and stems. These can be seen around now and although small, are very obvious once



The water stick insect is a familiar find in a child's pond dipping net

you've 'got your eye in'. They look like surgical stitches, speared through and along the edges of water plants in little individual cases with tiny, stringy protuberances emanating from one end.

Adults emerge now, in August, and survive up until the following June, although the coldest months are spent in hibernation.

They can be surprisingly easy to find as

they often swim between different fishing spots amongst the bankside vegetation. A picnic or simply a bit of patience next to a pond, lake or mere's edge, will often reward the observant water stick insect enthusiast!

So even if you've never been a fan of pond dipping August is a great time to get acquainted with our aquatic characters – and you don't even need to get your feet wet.

Visit [benwaddams.com](http://benwaddams.com)

# Station closures bring in nearly £1m for police

THE closure of seven police stations in Shropshire has saved West Mercia Police nearly £1 million, it has been revealed.

The figure is made up of annual savings in running costs and cash made by selling or leasing the buildings – and comes as it was announced one more is to shut with two more to possibly follow.

West Mercia Police crime commissioner Bill Longmore confirmed, as long suspected, that Whitchurch police station was to be sold off, with the force currently looking for another location in the town to share a building with Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service.

The move will save police more than £60,000 a year in running costs and comes after it was announced Shifnal police station was shutting earlier this month.

Mr Longmore said talks were also ongoing about the future of Bridgnorth police station as well as the police counter service in Shrewsbury town centre near Riverside shopping centre. If both go it would generate further annual savings of almost £120,000.

Since 2013 bases at Albrighton, Cleobury Mortimer, Craven Arms, Ellesmere, Newport, Much Wenlock and Shifnal have either been sold off or leased out.

The stations at Newport, Ellesmere and Craven Arms have been sold for a total of £620,000, with Shifnal police station also set to be sold on. Stations at Albrighton, Cleobury Mortimer and Much Wenlock are being leased out for unknown sums.

Figures show the closures have resulted in annual savings of £152,153 for running costs.

Local neighbourhood officers have been moved to new 'community policing posts' in town halls, libraries and other public buildings.

Mr Longmore said in the cases of Whitchurch, Bridgnorth and Shrewsbury, none would be shut until adequate replacements had been found in the towns.

He added: "I believe very strongly in community policing, and the police need to be a part of the areas they serve."

"But community policing isn't about bricks and mortar. It's about people, and the relationships, mutual trust and respect you build up with them, and I want to make sure we can continue to see officers and PCSOs as part of the communities they serve. That is why we have made sure that where police stations have had to close, we are replacing them with alternatives."

## CHRONICLE



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Source: ABC





## Match of the Day 10.20pm

Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Manchester United v Newcastle United at Old Trafford and Crystal Palace v Aston Villa at Selhurst Park. The Magpies were looking for just a second victory away to United since 1972.



## Julie Walters: A Life on Screen 9.10pm

The actress chats about her 40-year career, from her comedy beginnings in theatre through to her successes in TV and film, culminating in her receiving a Bafta Fellowship earlier this year. Julie talks about how she got international recognition when she won an Oscar nomination.



## The Lost Honour of Christopher Jefferies 9pm

Fact-based feature-length drama, starring Jason Watkins. It's December 2010 and retired teacher Christopher Jefferies finds his life in Bristol turned upside down when the police question him about the disappearance of his tenant Joanna Yeates.



## Great Canal Journeys 7pm

Veteran actors and married couple Timothy West and Prunella Scales continue their journey and reach the Rochdale Canal - a waterway that was a main artery for the textile industry at the height of the Industrial Revolution. They begin in Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire.



## Football League Tonight 9pm

Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the latest games, including Leeds United v Sheffield Wednesday and Charlton Athletic v Hull City in the Championship, as well as all the goals from League One and League Two. Plus, a round-up of the main talking points.

## BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.** A round-up of national and international news, plus sports reports, weather forecasts and arts and entertainment features. Including NewsWatch at 7.45.
- 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** James Martin presents highlights of the series, recalling his favourite moments from Saturday Kitchen.
- 11.30 Football Focus.** Dan Walker and guests review the week's action and headlines, and look ahead to the weekend's fixtures, which include Crystal Palace v Aston Villa and Arsenal v Liverpool.
- 12.00 BBC News: Weather.**
- 12.10 Live Athletics: World Championships.** Gabby Logan presents further coverage of the concluding session on the opening day at the Bird's Nest Stadium in Beijing.
- 3.00 Equestrian: European Jumping Championships.** Clare Balding presents action from the team event in Aachen, Germany, as the British team aimed to qualify for the 2016 Rio Olympics, having won gold at the London Games.
- 4.30 Final Score.** A round-up of this afternoon's results from the Premier League, Football League and Scotland.
- 5.15 Pointless Celebrities.** A "celebrity experts" edition of the quiz show, featuring Rachel de Thame, Diarmuid Gavin, Jilly Goolden, Ollie Smith, Simon Rimmer, Kim Woodburn, Lee Stafford and Tommy Walsh. (R)
- 6.00 BBC News.**
- 6.10 Midlands Today: Weather.**
- 6.20 FILM: Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (2008).** The globe-trotting archaeologist races against Soviet agents to find a mysterious artefact of untold power. Action adventure sequel, starring Harrison Ford and Cate Blanchett.
- 8.15 The National Lottery: Five Star Family Reunion.** A UK family and their long-lost overseas relatives must work together and answer questions to win a once-in-a-lifetime reunion in a five-star location. Includes the weekend draw.
- 9.10 Casualty.** Part one of two. Zoe persuades Dylan to get help for his OCD. Lily seeks her parents' approval after her promotion, and Ethan convinces a man to be honest with his girlfriend.
- 10.00 BBC News: Weather.**
- 10.20 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Manchester United v Newcastle United and Crystal Palace v Aston Villa. **National Lottery Update.**
- 11.40 Rugby Union.** France v England. Highlights of the Test match at the Stade de France, as the sides continued their preparations for next month's World Cup. This was the second meeting on successive weekends, offering the coaches ample opportunity to test out their squads ahead of their final selections. Presented by John Inverdale.
- 12.40 Weather for the Week Ahead.**

## BBC2

- 6.00 Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix - Practice One.** Action from the Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps. (R)
- 7.55 Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix - Practice Two.** Lee McKenzie presents further highlights from the Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps, as the teams prepare for the 11th round of the season. (R)
- 9.55 Live Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix - Practice Three.** Coverage from the Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps.
- 11.05 Live Athletics: World Championships.** Live coverage of the opening day at the Bird's Nest Stadium in Beijing.
- 12.10 Live Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix - Qualifying.** Suzi Perry presents coverage from the Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps, as the grid placings are decided for the 11th round of the season (Start-time 1.00pm).
- 2.30 Escape to the Country.** Searching for a home in Wiltshire. (R)
- 3.30 Flog It!** From Buckland Abbey, Devon. (R)
- 4.30 Gardeners' World.** Monty Don is at Longmeadow to provide some seasonal advice. (R)
- 5.00 Athletics: World Championships Highlights.** Action from the opening day.
- 6.00 Atlantic: The Wildest Ocean on Earth.** Life in the tropical Atlantic, where everything from dolphins to jellyfish thrive in the warm waters - until extreme heat in Africa unleashes deadly hurricanes. Last in the series. (R)
- 7.00 Proms Extra 2015.** Katie Derham is joined by Chi-Chi Nwanoku and Roderick Williams to review Bach's solo violin works, Mahler's ninth symphony and Daniel Barenboim's West-Eastern Divan Orchestra.
- 7.40 Edwardian Farm.** The trio face their busiest period of the year as harvest arrives, but find time to relax with a day out at the seaside featuring musical entertainment and a Punch and Judy show. (R)
- 8.40 Dad's Army.** Captain Mainwaring and Sergeant Wilson are trapped in the bank vault with an unexploded bomb. Classic comedy, starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (R)
- 9.10 Julie Walters: A Life on Screen.** The actress chats about her career, from her beginnings in theatre through to her successes in TV and film. With contributions by Victoria Wood, Celia Imrie and Hugh Bonneville. (R)
- 10.10 FILM: Calendar Girls (2003).** Members of a Yorkshire branch of the Women's Institute cause controversy when they pose nude for a charity calendar. Fact-based comedy drama, with Helen Mirren and Julie Walters.
- 11.55 FILM: Titanic Town (1998).** A woman raising a family in 1970s Belfast leads a campaign for an end to violence after her friend is accidentally killed. Fact-based drama, starring Julie Walters and Claran Hinds.
- 1.30 Live Athletics: World Championships.** Coverage of the morning session on the second day.

## ITV

- 6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show!** 6.25 Pat & Stan 6.35 Dino Dan 6.45 Dino Dan 7.00 Animals 7.05 Animals 7.15 Sooty 7.30 Super 4 7.45 Fish Hooks 8.00 Young Justice: Invasion
- ITV News.**
- 8.25 Weekend.** With guests Jeremy Sheffield, Konnie Huq, Collabro and Lemar.
- 9.25 Murder, She Wrote.** Jessica investigates a medical murder. (R)
- 10.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
- 11.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** The host invites guests to air their differences over family and relationship issues, and provides them with his own brand of no-nonsense advice. (R)
- 12.25 ITV News and Weather: Weather.**
- 12.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
- 1.35 Tipping Point.** Quiz show, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R)
- 2.35 Celebrity Squares.** Guests include Julian Clary, Katherine Ryan and Paul Hollywood. (R)
- 3.20 Midsomer Murders.** A rare orchid is smuggled into Midsomer Malham, prompting a killing spree. Barnaby and Scott try to discover who is desperate enough to commit murder to get hold of the plant. (R)
- 5.15 Catchphrase.** Guessing game, hosted by Stephen Mulhern. (R)
- 6.00 ITV News Central: Weather.**
- 6.10 ITV News and Weather.**
- 6.30 You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates another selection of clips, including a girl who keeps raisins in her ears, seals with an attitude problem and how to destroy a shed using a single head-butt. (R)
- 7.00 Keep It in the Family.** Six Towie stars face the drop and an American speed-painting act performs as families from Warwickshire and Kent compete. Fun game show, hosted by Bradley Walsh.
- 8.00 The Saturday Night Story.** Part two of two. Ant and Dec pay tribute to comedy duos and Debra Stephenson and Jon Culshaw reveal their favourite impressionists. Plus, Blind Date with the late Cilla Black.
- 9.00 The Lost Honour of Christopher Jefferies.** Retired teacher Christopher Jefferies finds his life turned upside down when his tenant Joanna Yeates goes missing. Fact-based feature-length drama, starring Jason Watkins.
- 11.00 ITV News and Weather: Weather.**
- 11.15 The Chase.** Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on ruthless quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize. (R)
- 12.15 Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.00 Show Me the Telly.** Quiz show, hosted by Richard Bacon. Stars of the small screen pit their wits against members of the public in a game of TV trivia. (R)
- 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.**

## Channel 4

- 6.10 How I Met Your Mother.** (R)
- 6.35 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Frank and Marie decide to move. (R)
- 7.05 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R)
- 7.30 Cardiff Triathlon.** Action from the inaugural staging of the event.
- 8.00 The Morning Line.** Emma Spencer and Graham Cunningham present from York.
- 9.00 Frasier.** Part two of two. Sherry clings on to Martin. (R)
- 9.30 Frasier.** Daphne falls out with Sherry. (R)
- 10.00 The Big Bang Theory.** Sheldon becomes obsessed with gift-giving etiquette. (R)
- 10.30 The Big Bang Theory.** The flatmates are challenged to a robot duel. (R)
- 11.00 The Big Bang Theory.** Sheldon develops a scientific procedure for making friends. (R)
- 11.30 The Simpsons.** Homer becomes the owner of the power plant. (R)
- 12.00 The Simpsons.** With the guest voice of Eric Sile. (R)
- 12.30 The Simpsons.** Homer moves in with a gay couple. (R)
- 1.00 Rude(ish) Tube.** Amusing internet videos, including a bungee jump with a twist.
- 1.30 Channel 4 Racing.** Live coverage from York, Sandown Park and Chester.
- 4.15 Come Dine with Me.** The competition heads to south-east London. (R)
- 4.45 Come Dine with Me.** Personal trainer Vincenzo hosts the second night in south-east London. (R)
- 5.10 Come Dine with Me.** Bar manager Josh is third to host in south-east London. (R)
- 5.45 Come Dine with Me.** Psychologist David hosts the fourth night in south-east London. (R)
- 6.10 Come Dine with Me.** On the final day of the competition in south-east London it is part-time event organiser Gina's turn to host, with an evening of fine dining and tear-jerking poetry. (R)
- 6.35 Channel 4 News.**
- 7.00 Great Canal Journeys.** Veteran actors Timothy West and Prunella Scales continue their journey and reach the Rochdale Canal - an important waterway at the height of the Industrial Revolution.
- 8.00 FILM: Battleship (2012).** American naval vessels go into battle against an invading fleet of powerful alien spaceships. Sci-fi adventure, with Taylor Kitsch, Liam Neeson and Alexander Skarsgard.
- 10.35 FILM: Rush Hour 3 (2007).** An assassination attempt sets mismatched detectives Lee and Carter off on a mission to take on Triad gangs in Paris. Action comedy sequel, starring Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker.
- The Last Leg.** (R)
- 1.15 Hollyoaks.** (R)
- 3.20 Location, Location, Location.** (R)
- 4.15 Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb.** (R)
- 5.10 Kirstie's Vintage Gems.** (R)
- 5.30 Draw It!** (R)
- 5.55 How I Met Your Mother.** (R)

## Channel 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!** Peppa Pig **6.05 Bananas** in Pyjamas **6.15 Milkshake! Monkey**
- 6.20 Angelina Ballerina** **6.35 Pip Ahoy!**
- 6.50 The Mr Men Show** **7.00 Chloe's Closet** **7.10 Roobarb and Custard Too**
- 7.20 Make Way for Noddy** **7.30 Paw Patrol** **7.45 Little Princess** **8.00 Wanda and the Alien** **8.10 Zack and Quack**
- 8.25 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom** **8.45 Jelly Jam** **9.00 LazyTown** **9.30 Dora and Friends**
- 10.00 SpongeBob SquarePants.** Double bill. A day at the beach results in all-out war.
- 10.35 Cowboy Builders.** Dominic Littlewood and Melinda Messenger help a woman in south-west London. (R)
- 11.30 Cowboy Builders.** Revisiting two people conned by the same tradesman. (R)
- 12.30 Cowboy Builders.** The team seeks to repair a cottage in Caerphilly. (R)
- 1.25 FILM: Columbo: Blueprint for Murder (1972).** Crime drama, directed by and starring Peter Falk.
- 2.55 FILM: Mosquito Squadron (1969).** Second World War drama, starring David McCallum.
- 4.45 FILM: The Sea Wolves (1980)** Fact-based Second World War adventure, with Gregory Peck; **5 News Update.**
- 7.00 Cricket on 5.** England v Australia. Action from the third day of the series-concluding Fifth Test, which comes from the Oval.
- 7.55 5 News Weekend.**
- 8.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Paul and Steve call for urgent police backup after opening a locked wooden case they find while carrying out an eviction notice at a flat in London's Docklands. (R)
- 9.00 Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the latest games, including Leeds United v Sheffield Wednesday and Charlton Athletic v Hull City in the Championship.
- 10.25 Greatest Ever Sitcoms.** Mel Giedroyc narrates a countdown of the nation's 50 best-loved TV comedies, as voted for by Channel 5 viewers in an online poll. (R)
- 1.15 SuperCasino.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.10 Transporter: The Series.** A car chase leads to Frank being arrested and inexplicably charged with murder, but he soon realises his incarceration is part of a plot to give him a package to deliver.
- 4.00 Police Interceptors Unleashed with Vinnie Jones.** Reports of a handgun leads to a hotel being locked down while officers get prepared, while thieves crash a stolen car after a chase and are forced to flee on foot. (R)
- 4.50 Make It Big.** Jess gets a warning from HQ. (R)
- 5.15 Make It Big.** The youngsters visit local radio stations. (R)
- 5.45 Angels of Jarm.** Little Mary gets upset. (R)
- 5.50 Angels of Jarm.** (R)

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## Countryfile

6pm

Matt Baker and Anita Rani visit Powis Castle, taking a tour of the gardens and finding out about a locally brewed beer made with honey. Matt also climbs 40 feet in the air to prune Britain's biggest yew hedge, while Anita meets volunteers delivering locally grown fruit and vegetables.



## Dragons' Den

8pm

Panelists Deborah Meaden, Peter Jones, Touker Suleyman, Sarah Willingham and Nick Jenkins pass judgment over more business propositions. A mother of two invites them to sample some vegetables that have been cunningly disguised. With Evan Davis.



## Midsomer Murders

8pm

The launch of the latest sparkling wine by Midsomer Vine Winery falls flat when critic Nadia Simons gives it a scathing review, then guests sampling the vintage start to collapse. Owner William Cernarvon suspects the Farmers' Wives Association of trying to destroy his business.



## Return of the Black Death: Secret History

7pm

One of the most devastating pandemics in human history, the Black Death swept through London in 1348, killing old and young, rich and poor, within days of their first symptoms. Received wisdom has long suggested the culprit was bubonic plague.



## Police Interceptors Unleashed with Vinnie Jones

8pm

Officers take on a crook who has devised a crafty scheme to get something for nothing, while PC Barry Peach is confronted by a foul-mouthed pensioner. The teams also tries to catch a pair of four-legged runaways heading in the direction of a busy motorway.

## BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.**
- 7.40 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Manchester United v Newcastle United and Crystal Palace v Aston Villa. (R)
- 9.00 BBC News.**
- 10.00 Sunday Morning Live.** Sian Williams chairs a topical debate covering religious and ethical issues. Indian politician Shashi Tharoor argues that Britain should pay compensation to its former colonies.
- 11.00 Bargain Hunt.** Catherine Southon and Thomas Plant lend their expertise to two teams of reds and two teams of blues at a fair in Swinderby, Lincolnshire. (R)
- 12.00 BBC News; Weather.**
- 12.10 Live Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix.** Suzi Perry presents coverage from the Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps, where the 11th round of the season takes place (Start-time 1.00pm).
- 3.30 Escape to the Country.** An American expat couple search for a home in Surrey. (R)
- 4.00 The Great British Bake Off.** The 10 remaining home-bakers reach Bread week, preparing quick breads in the signature bake, baguettes in the technical, and showstopping 3D bread sculptures in the finale. (R)
- 5.00 Songs of Praise.** Josie D'Arby and Radzi Chinyanganya present from Christian festival the Keswick Convention in the Lake District, and chat to songwriter Stuart Townend and poet Stewart Henderson.
- 5.35 BBC News.**
- 5.50 Midlands Today; Weather.**
- 6.00 Countryfile.** Matt Baker and Anita Rani visit Powis Castle, touring the gardens and finding out about a locally brewed beer made with honey. Harvest time approaches on Adam Henson's farm. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
- 7.00 Big Blue Live.** New series. Matt Baker, Liz Bonnin and Steve Backshall present a three-part series observing sea creatures that gather in California's Monterey Bay, including humpback whales.
- 8.00 Casualty.** Part two of two. The day of Max and Zoe's wedding finally arrives, but events take a turn for the deadly when a fight at the reception causes a

## BBC2

- 6.00 The Instant Gardener.** A low-allergen garden in Northamptonshire. (R)
- 6.45 The Instant Gardener.** (R)
- 7.30 Countryfile.** Report from the Country Land and Business Associations annual game fair. (R)
- 8.30 Gardeners' World.** (R)
- 9.00 The Beechgrove Garden.**
- 9.30 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** Highlights of the series.
- 11.00 Live Athletics: World Championships.** Coverage of the second day at the Bird's Nest Stadium in Beijing.
- 3.00 Live Triathlon.** The men's race in the ITU World Triathlon Series event from Stockholm.
- 4.15 Equestrian: European Jumping Championships.** Action from Aachen, Germany.
- 5.15 Triathlon.** The eighth round of the ITU World Triathlon Series in Stockholm.
- 6.00 Rugby Union.** France v England. Highlights of the Test match at the Stade de France, as the sides continued their preparations for next month's World Cup. (R)
- 7.00 Athletics: World Championships Highlights.** Gabby Logan presents action from the second day at the Bird's Nest Stadium in Beijing, including the conclusion of the heptathlon and the 100m final.
- 8.00 Dragons' Den.** The panel considers a business proposal involving vegetables in disguise, and is asked by a scientist to help him demonstrate his plans by mixing up a strange concoction.
- 9.00 Odyssey.** Peter finally makes contact with Yusuf Qasim while Ruby is forced to come to terms with the fact that her mission is not yet complete.
- 9.45 Country Strife: Abz on the Farm.** The couple's plans seem doomed when their mortgage falls through. They get back on track by buying a smallholding at auction, but find their new home has plenty of problems.
- 10.15 Family Guy.** Meg convinces Brian to take her SATs for her, but when she receives poor exam results everyone begins to question how smart the dog really is.
- 10.35 Family Guy.** Peter takes up smoking, and is quickly approached by an advertising executive to be the face of a new campaign - for an anti-smoking

## ITV

- 6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! 6.25 Pat & Stan 6.35 Dino Dan 6.45 Dino Dan 7.00 Canimals 7.05 Canimals 7.15 Sooty 7.30 Super 4 7.45 Fish Hooks 8.00 Young Justice: Invasion**
- 8.25 ITV News.**
- 8.30 Weekend.** With Louis Walsh, and music from Hometown.
- 9.25 Murder, She Wrote.** An unpopular celebrity is killed. (R)
- 10.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
- 11.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
- 12.25 ITV News and Weather; Weather.**
- 12.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
- 1.40 FILM: Smokey and the Bandit II (1980).** The maverick trucker undertakes the mammoth task of transporting a pregnant elephant to Texas, with an old enemy in hot pursuit. Road comedy, with Burt Reynolds and Jackie Gleason.
- 3.35 FILM: The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement (2004).** Princess Mia of Genovia is told she has to find a husband before she is due to take the throne on her 21st birthday. Family comedy sequel, starring Anne Hathaway and Julie Andrews.
- 5.45 Catchphrase.** Guessing game, hosted by Stephen Mulhern.
- 6.25 ITV News Central; Weather.**
- 6.45 ITV News and Weather.**
- 7.00 Animal Mums.** New series. Nature documentary revealing how animals cope with the demands of raising their offspring. The first episode features gorillas, rhinos, highland cows and newborn lambs.
- 8.00 Midsomer Murders.** A sparkling wine launch ends in disaster when guests sampling the vintage start to collapse, and Barnaby must investigate a possible connection to a hit-and-run. (R)
- 10.00 ITV News and Weather; Weather.**
- 10.15 56 Up.** Continuing the 2012 update in the landmark documentary series, following the stories of a group of participants whose lives have been chronicled since 1964. (R)
- 11.20 Premiership Rugby 7s Series.** Action from the group matches, which were held at the Arms Park, Ricoh Arena,

## Channel 4

- 6.20 How I Met Your Mother.** Ted is horrified when his friends bond with Zoey. (R)
- 6.45 How I Met Your Mother.** Ted is lost at sea with Zoey's husband. (R)
- 7.10 The Chateau Impney Hill Climb.** Action from the event that saw vintage cars tackle an uphill course.
- 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray spics up his sex life. (R)
- 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Debra's dress sense causes problems. (R)
- 8.30 Frasier.** Niles receives divorce papers from Maris. (R)
- 9.00 Frasier.** Niles asks Frasier whether he should stay with Maris. (R)
- 9.30 Sunday Brunch.** With guests Peter Duncan and Wolf Alice.
- 12.30 Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year 2015.** Featuring Pub Sheds and Budget Sheds. (R)
- 1.30 The Big Bang Theory.** Sheldon is forced to work with Kripke. (R)
- 1.55 The Simpsons.** Lisa is offered a college scholarship. (R)
- 2.25 The Simpsons.** Bart destroys Lisa's saxophone. (R)
- 2.55 The Simpsons.** Bart legally separates from his parents. (R)
- 3.25 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent.** Phil Spencer seeks buyers for two shabby semis in the north of England. (R)
- 4.30 Location, Location, Location.** Two couples search for new homes in Scotland. (R)
- 5.35 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away.** A widow seeks to realise her late husband's dream of buying a home in France.
- 6.30 Channel 4 News.**
- 7.00 Return of the Black Death: Secret History.** Experts investigate the deadly plague that swept through Europe in the 14th century, in light of an illuminating discovery made by rail engineers working in central London in 2013. (R)
- 8.00 Time Crashers.** New series. Tony Robinson presents a show in which 10 celebrities experience life in different eras. In the first episode, they must work as servants in an Elizabethan manor house.
- 9.00 FILM: Les Misérables (2012).** Premiere. A former prisoner pursued by a fanatical police inspector in post-revolutionary France is drawn into a

## Channel 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!:** Peppa Pig **6.05 Bananas in Pyjamas** **6.15 Milkshake! Monkey** **6.20 Pip Ahoy!** **6.35 The Mr Men Show** **6.45 Chloe's Closet** **7.00 Make Way for Noddy** **7.10 Paw Patrol** **7.25 Little Princess** **7.40 Wanda and the Alien** **7.50 Zack and Quack** **8.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom** **8.15 Jelly Jamm** **8.30 LazyTown** **8.55 Dora and Friends**
- 9.25 SpongeBob SquarePants.** Double bill. Plankton learns how to attract customers.
- 10.00 Football League Tonight.** Highlights and all the goals from the Championship, League One and League Two. (R)
- 11.30 Police Interceptors.** A crash ruptures a gas main. (R)
- 12.25 Police Interceptors.** Two officers deal with a suspected gunman. (R)
- 1.20 FILM: Michael (1996).** Fantasy comedy, starring John Travolta.
- 3.20 FILM: Pete's Dragon (1977).** Musical fantasy, starring Jim Dale.
- 5.25 FILM: The Sword in the Stone (1963).** Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Rickie Sorenson.
- 7.00 Cricket on 5.** England v Australia. Action from the fourth day of the series-concluding Fifth Test, which comes from the Oval.
- 7.55 5 News Weekend.**
- 8.00 Police Interceptors Unleashed with Vinnie Jones.** Officers take on a crook who has devised a crafty scheme to get something for nothing, while PC Barry Peach is confronted by a foul-mouthed pensioner.
- 9.00 FILM: Snitch (2013).** Premiere. A man volunteers to become an undercover informant in a drug trafficking operation to save his son from prison. Crime thriller, starring Dwayne Johnson and Susan Sarandon.
- 11.15 FILM: Fight Club (1999).** A disillusioned office worker and his mysterious friend start a club where frustrated men vent their anger in bare-knuckle fighting. Drama, starring Brad Pitt and Edward Norton.
- 1.50 SuperCasino.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.10 Under the Dome.** Big Jim, Julia, Joe, Norrie and Hunter band together

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## Cinema listings

### TRAINWRECK (15)



On track – 8/10

Amy Poehler enjoys a free sex life in stark contrast to her sister Kim who has settled down with her knitwear-clad husband Tom. Amy works at lifestyle magazine S'Nuff and is assigned to pen a profile on sports doctor Aaron Connors. The interview sparks an unlikely romance with the kind-hearted medic that threatens to unravel the fabric of her bed-hopping existence.

### THE DIARY OF A TEENAGE GIRL (18)



Sex secrets – 8/10

Fifteen-year-old Minnie Goetze details the events leading up to the loss of her virginity in an audio diary but we shudder when we realise her first sexual partner is her mother's 35-year-old boyfriend, Monroe. When Minnie's bohemian mum discovers the illegal relationship, the film navigates the fallout with considerable flair and sensitivity.

### FANTASTIC FOUR (12A)



Comic heroes – 6/10

Miles Teller, who was mesmerising in Whiplash, squanders his talent as Reed Richards who leads a team exploring inter-dimensional travel.

Disaster strikes during the first teleportation but the team survive and are invested with super-human abilities.

One of the team, Victor, uses his new powers for evil though and must be stopped.

### THE GIFT (15)



Creepy friend – 7/10

Simon Baker and his wife Robyn move back to his hometown of Los Angeles. During a shopping trip they cross paths with Simon's old school chum Gordon Mosley.

In the days that follow, Gordon arrives unannounced at the house while Simon is at work and forges an uneasy bond with Robyn, who grows concerned about an unspoken incident involving the two men.

# Film is poor relation

by Damon Smith

**MORE than 50 years after the achingly cool TV series The Man From U.N.C.L.E. exploited Cold War paranoia for rollicking entertainment, director Guy Ritchie continues to explore fractious male dynamics in this spy caper.**

The unlikely pairing of suave American agent Napoleon Solo and tightly coiled Ukrainian rival Illya Kuryakin during the Cold War remains unchanged in Ritchie's film.

While the original pairing of Robert Vaughn and David McCallum lent swagger and smouldering sex appeal to the politically divided operatives, Ritchie's good-looking men from U.N.C.L.E. – Arnie Hammer and Henry Cavill – radiate impeccably tailored style over substance and sizzle.

James Bond could arch an eyebrow and exude more charisma than either leading man manages here as they attempt to wrench a nuclear warhead from the clutches of a criminal network.

Ritchie stokes homoerotic embers with a thinly veiled declaration of sexual preference that will prick the ears of gay

audiences as the men attempt to simultaneously pick two locks on a door and evade capture.

These throwaway moments, including an appearance by Pussy Galore's helicopter from Goldfinger, are symbolic of a film that has the right ingredients but no clear sense how to blend everything smoothly.

Victoria Vinciguerra (Elizabeth Debicki) is the beautiful mastermind of a criminal or-



Off target – Henry Cavill stars in The Man From U.N.C.L.E. which has been directed by British film maker Guy Ritchie

ganisation, which hopes to destabilise global peace using a warhead armed by nuclear scientist Udo Teller (Christian Berkel).

CIA handler Sanders (Jared Harris) instructs his debonair agent Napoleon Solo (Cavill) to join forces with KGB counterpart Illya Kuryakin (Hammer) to thwart Victoria's nefarious plan. The two men bicker and brood, give each other pet names ("Red Peril" and "Cowboy"), and dangle Udo's car

mechanic daughter Gaby (Alicia Vikander) as bait to flush the scientist out of hiding. En route, the agents clash with Gaby's sadistic uncle (Sylvester Groth) and forge an alliance with an unflappable British agent, Alexander Waverly (Hugh Grant).

The Man From U.N.C.L.E. lovingly evokes the textures, polish and poise of an era that rebelled against post-war drabness, with fine contributions from production de-

signer Oliver Scholl and costume designer Joanna Johnston.

The soundtrack jives to jazzy beats, matched by Ritchie's measured direction, which thankfully avoids some of his usual showboating.

If looks were everything, the film would twist and shout in snazzy kaleidoscopic split screens. However, characters are poorly developed.

## Book reviews

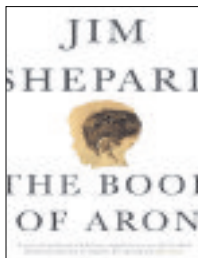
### THE BOOK OF ARON

By Jim Shepard

Published by Quercus

This gripping story is told through the eyes of a young Polish-Jewish boy struggling to survive in the Warsaw Ghetto as the Nazis and their cronies tighten the screw on thousands of Jewish families imprisoned in a few streets behind a hastily constructed wall.

We first encounter Aron, a mischievous but thoughtful child, on the eve of war and share his chilling experiences as he loses his family and his home as the Jews become prey to starvation, disease and random acts of cruelty. The fictional story is interwoven



with the true story of Doctor Janusz Korczak who tirelessly worked to care for the orphans of the ghetto but was eventually to share their fate at Treblinka concentration camp.

By Leon Burakowski

### THE SEVEN SISTERS

By Lucinda Riley

Published by Macmillan

A sweeping tale of love and loss, this is the first in a seven-book series, based on the legends of the Seven Sisters star constellation. A story within a story, it begins with glamorous Maia and her equally fascinating sisters gathering at their magnificent childhood home – a castle on the shores of Lake Geneva – following the death of their elusive billionaire father. Having all been adopted by him, the six siblings (one is missing at this stage) are each given tantalising clues to their true heritage. Riley's



first offering concentrates on Maia. Letters written in the 1920s, reveal the love story of a beauty called Izabela Bonifacio who travelled to Paris, enjoying adventures there, before her marriage.

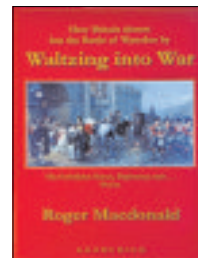
By Cathy Stanworth

### WALTZING INTO WAR

By Roger Macdonald

Published by The Goodchild Press

This is an offbeat take on the Battle of Waterloo which brought Napoleon to a final stop. Macdonald's improbable vehicle is to link it to the development of the waltz, which was considered scandalous in Britain because the dancers held each other close. Into the mix come duels, spies, and a tabloid undercurrent of who is sleeping with whom. It is an entertaining romp through history and is certainly different to the usual fare you get about the battle, which was preceded by one of the most famous balls in



history, at which all the high ranking British officers were present. Macdonald brings to life the network of personalities and how they interacted to shape history.

By John Mountford

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Neil Oliver on location for the filming of historical series Vikings



Neil's first work of fiction



Neil with fellow presenters on the hit BBC programme Coast

## TV history expert to present debut novel

TV presenter and historian Neil Oliver will be visiting Oswestry to talk about his debut novel, a historical story set in the 15th century.

Neil will be spending an evening in the town on September 11 to sign copies of his book, *Master of Shadows*, and to answer questions from fans.

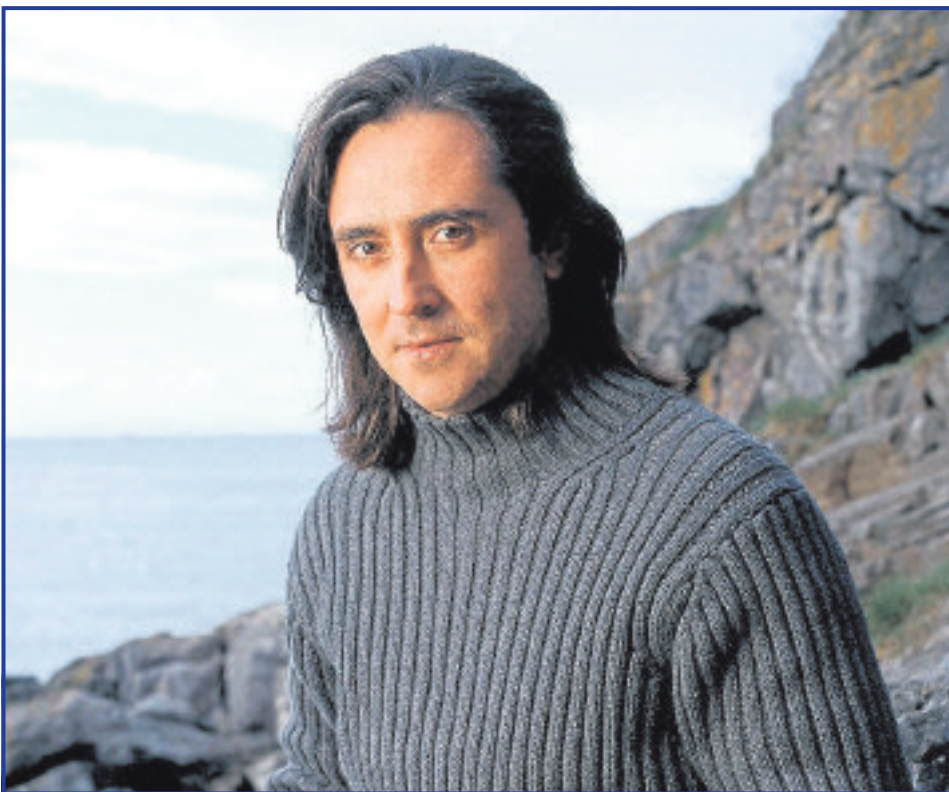
A former archaeology student at the University of Glasgow, Neil has presented the award-winning BBC documentary series *Coast* as well as the series *A History of Scotland*, *Vikings*, and *A History of Ancient Britain*.

He has written books to accompany each series, and while *Master of Shadows* is his first work of fiction, his knowledge of history has stood him in good stead for the story.

Set in fifteenth-century Constantinople, the book opens with Prince Constantine saving the life of a broken-hearted girl. Meanwhile, John Grant is a young man on the edge of the world. His unique abilities carry him from his home in Scotland to the heart of the Byzantine Empire in search of a girl and the chance to fulfil a death-bed promise. In another place, Lena has remained hidden from the men who have been searching for her for many years. When she's hunted down, at last she knows what she must do.

With an army amassing beyond the city's ancient walls, the fates of these three people will intertwine, and as the Siege of Constantinople reaches its climax, each must make a choice between head and heart, duty and destiny.

The evening will be held at The Dining Rooms, formerly The Walls, in English Walls, Oswestry, and has been organised by Booka bookshop. Tickets cost £8 available from the book shop in Church Street or by calling (01691) 662244 to reserve tickets. Doors open at 7pm and the event will start at 7.30pm. The ticket price includes a glass of wine or soft drink on arrival, and £4 of the ticket price redeemable against a book purchase on the night.



Neil Oliver, who will appear in Oswestry next month, has penned a novel set in the days leading to the Fall of Constantinople

## Cameras are set to roll for new Oswestry-based film

**FILMING** for an Oswestry-based feature-length film will start next month with the aim of having a national release in spring next year.

The film, *Run for Your Life*, is being produced in Oswestry by Rocking Horse Studios with local people taking all the on-screen roles.

The film's producer, Gareth Thomas, says the film has hard-hitting themes. He also appealed for local firms and organisations to get behind the production.

### Bullying

"The entire cast and crew are all local, community-based individuals, whose talent has earned them a place in the film," he says.

"The film is set in the community and highlights the very real issue of bullying and abuse for young people.

"We have a target of having a local cinema premiere release to coincide with the BBC Sports Relief celebrations next spring, which is the charity which inspired the original story.



Members of Rocking Horse Studios in Oswestry

"Although we are now firmly on track, we would still love to hear from any businesses, groups or individuals who may feel they have something to offer towards our new, young and local team of talented film-makers."

The film, which tells of a teenage girl overcoming bullying through an unlikely friendship and her sporting ability, has been in the planning for two years.

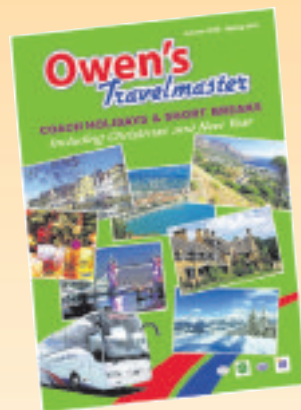
Mr Thomas says: "Run for Your Life tells the story of Jess, a bullied and victimised teenager who starts a new college in a new town and, due to the way she looks and acts, is subjected to more of the identical abuse she suffered before.

"However, upon befriending grumpy college librarian Ben Docherty, she slowly becomes inspired to take up her old talent for athletics with the ambitious dream of competing against the sporting rival who has subjected her to so much abuse."

### Equipment

Rocking Horse Studios has been backed by The Prince's Trust to bring in the initial equipment to allow principal photography to begin on schedule.

Mr Thomas said the film will be submitted to a number of film festivals to try to secure a wider release around the country. Rocking Horse Studios has an office in Oswestry at CHALK, Leg Street. Anyone interested in supporting the film or finding out more about getting involved can contact Mr Thomas on 07528 589659 or at rockinghorsestudios1207@gmail.com



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# All things bright and beautiful in summer

**AS summer progresses, some containers will lose momentum by late August, particularly if they haven't been fed and watered religiously.**

But horticulturist Christine Walkden, a regular on TV and radio, reckons there's still plenty of scope for enjoying colour throughout late summer and beyond.

The key to longevity is continuous deadheading, watering and feeding, she insists.

If your bedding lobelia and bacopa is looking a bit straggly, give it a trim with scissors and a good feed and it should perk up again.

If, however, some of your pots look like they're not going to recover, particularly if they have dried out, it may be time to visit the garden centre to replenish those specimens with some healthier ones, which you might even be able to buy in the sale.

"We are past the summer equinox, so we're around 10 weeks away before the clocks go back, but how long our late summer blooms last largely depends on what the weather does," she says.

"But you can buy late-flowering chrysanthemums - you can get dwarf bedding ones - and some garden centres still have dahlias which have some way to go. August is a funny month for in-between plants."



## Colours

If you want bright, strong colours, try Dahlia 'Roxy', a deep magenta-pink, and 'Bishop of Oxford' a deep marmalade-orange.

Alternatively, replace one with the crimson-black-flowered and beautiful 'Bishop of Auckland', which will need supporting with twiggy hazel but is still suitable for pots.

"Other plants that will be around in late summer include Cyclamen coum, C. hederifolium, hesperantha, lots of violas, lilies, cosmos, colchicums, dwarf rudbeckia and dwarf asters, so there's quite a lot of choice.

"You need a good solid foundation of foliage colour in your late summer pots," she advises.

"Hebes work really well at this time of year. 'James Stirling' has beautiful, rusty orange foliage and looks great with hesperantha or rudbeckia.

"Always go for contrast. If I have a dark foliage bottom, I would go for a light top.

"The best advice is to go into a garden centre or nursery and see what's there and really what's looking good at this time."

Other good foliage colour for late season pots comes from heucheras, ferns and hostas, if they haven't been

chomped by snails, as well as a variety of smaller euonymus.

If you're replanting, use John Innes No 2, Christine advises, which has better structure, better drainage, more nutrients in it and greater stability so your pots are less likely to blow over, she says.

Of course, if you want late summer colour and you're planting afresh, you will need to water new plants regularly, says Christine.

"What's going wrong in a lot of people's gardens at the moment is that we're getting that very fine rain and people think it's wet the soil - but the soil's bone dry! Pots are drying out. They still need to be watered thoroughly and regularly."

Don't plant anything new if you are going away this summer and don't have anyone to take over that watering, she advises.

You'll be better off waiting till you come back and then make a head start on autumn planting.

**BEST OF THE BUNCH - Cosmos Atrosanguineus**  
BEST known as the chocolate cosmos, because it produces masses of burgundy flowers which smell like chocolate, this Mexican perennial with green, deeply lobed leaves, flowers continuously from midsummer to early autumn if you deadhead it regularly and feed it occasionally.

The flowers are like small, single dahlias. It's not completely hardy, but should survive most winters if covered with a thick layer of mulch. If you live in a really cold area, dig up the tubers in autumn and store them in trays of compost in the winter, which you need to keep slightly moist. Plant out again in full sun in moist or well-drained soil after the last frosts of spring.



Prune old blackcurrant stems after the last fruits have been harvested

# Keep going with the hoe to keep the weeds at bay

## WHAT TO DO THIS WEEK

1. Hoe regularly to stop weeds becoming established and seeding.
2. Transplant seedlings of wallflower, digitalis and myosotis 9in apart in shallow drills.
3. Remove seed heads from bedding dahlias to encourage them to continue producing flowers.
4. New canes which will carry next year's crop of blackberries and loganberries should be tied in as they grow.
5. After fruiting, prune some of the oldest blackcurrant stems.
6. Check containers every day to see if they need watering.
7. Cut gladioli for decoration as soon as the first flowers on the spike are open.
8. Continue to layer border carnations.
9. Plant new summer varieties of strawberries and don't let them dry out.

10. Pot up seedlings sown in the greenhouse last month and move them into individual pots when rooted.
11. Sow winter varieties of spinach in succession to provide crops from autumn to spring.

## GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT - Beetroot

If you sowed your beetroot seed in May or June, you should be harvesting it from August or September onwards.

Young beetroot leaves can be used in salads, while the roots can be roasted or cured or also used raw in summer salads. Beetroot is a greedy feeder, so grow it in soil which has been well manured over the years.

Don't overwater it unless the soil looks like it's going to dry out completely as you'll get more leaves than roots. When harvesting, pull the roots out before they reach golf ball size.

# Unique grasses provide interest all year round

By Ross Underwood  
Head Gardener at Hodnet Hall

*"The great plain swayed beneath them as they went steadily westward. The rich buffalo grass.... changed its colour throughout the day; in the morning, in the pinkish rays of the early sun, it was nearly gray; later, in the yellow light of the mid morning sun, it was brilliant green; at noon it took on a bluish cast; in the afternoon, in the intensity of the sun...., the blades lost their individual character...so that when a light breeze whipped across, a living colour seemed to run through the grass, to disappear and reappear from moment to moment. In the evening...., the grass took on a purplish hue as if it absorbed all the light from the sky and would not give it back."*

Butcher's Crossing by John Williams

**IT seems that whenever you visit a garden or read anything on grasses it is always, all of one thing, or all of another.**

Either the only grass in a garden is lawn, a stately if vicious Pampas Grass or ornamental grasses are everywhere and more traditionally minded gardeners can be turned off.

Ornamental grasses have gained a huge following amongst gardeners over recent years but are still seen by many as simply a new fashion which will wane eventually. Yet grasses were being talked about in serious gardening circles as early as the mid-nineteenth century.

Grasses appeal on several levels. Modern ecological concerns mean that the ability of many grasses to withstand drought or to bind together soil in flood prone areas makes them sound investments.

## Maintenance

Secondly, as more people see the benefits of gardening but have less time to garden intensively, grasses provide ornamental features coupled with comparatively few maintenance requirements. Grasses are amongst the most trouble free of all plants. Rust can affect some species in warm wet weather, or mice or voles may eat the roots in a harsh winter, but these are relatively small concerns.

Above all grasses have a unique aesthetic appeal which can enhance all our plantings. Although the colours are often more muted than those of traditional garden plants, grasses offer more subtle and sophisticated benefits of form, line, texture, translucency, movement and sound.

The best gardens reflect changes over time just as we observe in the natural landscape. Nothing conjures up visions of summer like an English meadow bedecked with Ox-eye daisies and other wild flowers. Yet the backbone of this scene is the 80 per cent or so of grasses that make up any meadow. As spring moves to summer and flowers fade grasses turn from green to gold and ripple in the sun.

Grasses are easy to grow and individual species are often tolerant of a wide range of cultural conditions. As with all gardening it is simply a matter of putting the right plant



Grasses combine well with late season perennials, as is demonstrated in this picture



Why not add some calamagrostis brachytricha to your garden?

in the right place. Most grasses thrive in sun. Stipa gigantea will thrive even where the soil is dry and free draining, its stems drying to a luminous gold under these conditions. Miscanthus on the other hand is more adaptable and will tolerate full sun where there is moisture at the root. Many will also tolerate some shade although the quality of variegation will vary according to the amount of light.

Stipa are evergreen so the spent flower heads should be cut off but the basal foliage should only be combed through with the fingers of a gloved hand in spring to re-

move any dead foliage and allow the new to emerge. Miscanthus are deciduous so once the stems have provided winter interest they should be cut down above any newly emerging foliage.

Many grasses reach their peak season of interest as the weather cools and shadows lengthen but gardeners should think about planting from now onwards as long as irrigation is possible in dry weather. This is because the bulk of the root growth will be made after July so planting in the summer and autumn means they will have become well established by next spring when new



Dried seed heads in the winter sunshine

shoots will emerge and it will be time to trim or rake off the old foliage. Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Karl Foerster' is one of the earliest to get going in spring, flowering in mid summer so it is worth planting now. It has a strong upright habit which gives it a unique presence in the garden. The stems dry and hold their shape over winter needing only a trim back after winter.

Though the manner of spread of all grasses is the same, by lateral shoots, they can be classified as either runners or clumpers. As a genus grasses have much to offer the open minded gardener.



## BRAIN TRAINING

Test your mental agility. Target times, in minutes, are in the little clocks

### 9-er



Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all 9 letters.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

#### THE CLUES

34599 gives a game;  
973358 gives a sport;  
12951266 gives another sport.

Your time:

### X is to Y



- Wallace is to Gromit as Dennis is to ?  
BONZO, BULLET, FANG, GNASHER, WOLF
- Kleptiko is to Lamb as Kalamari is to ?  
BEEF, GOAT, OFFAL, PORK, SQUID
- The White Cliffs of Dover is to Vera Lynn as Thanks for the Memory is to ?  
AL BOWLLY, BING CROSBY, ALICE FAYE, BOB HOPE, AL JOLSON

Your time:

### Mindbender



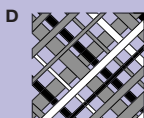
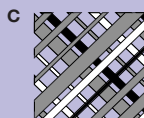
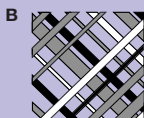
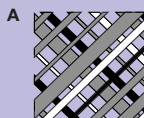
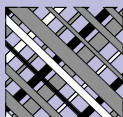
In a running race, Charlie is leading. He is eighty-one metres in front of Alan, who is in last place. Between them is Jon, who is forty metres from the finish line. Given that Jon is twice as far from Alan as he is from Charlie, how far has Alan got left to run?

Your time:

### Mirror Image



Which of the four shapes below is an exact mirror image of the shape on the right?

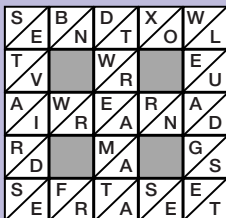


Your time:

### Split Decision



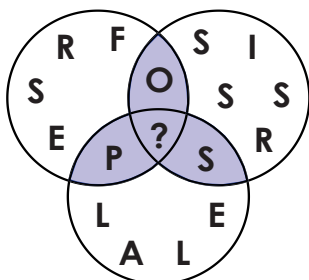
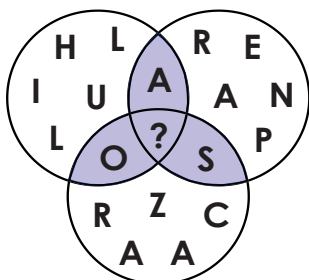
Cross out one of the two letters in each divided square to reveal a completed crossword grid.



Your time:

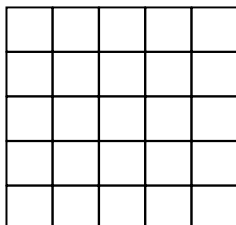
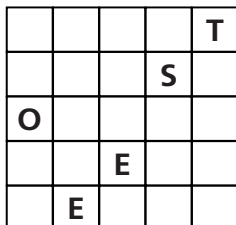
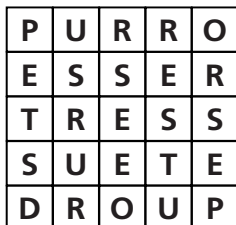
## CIRCLEGRAM

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be rearranged to form words with a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



## ALPHAMUDDLE

Rearrange the letters to make five words that read both across and down. Five letters have been placed to start you off.



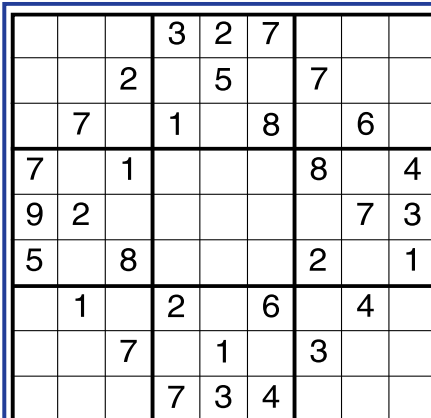
## IMPOSSIPUZZLES

1. 'A 6-figure number, eh?' said Harry, glancing at the boy's working. 'What's so special about it?' 'Look, Dad,' Doug replied. 'If you shift the second half and put it in front of the first half you get two more than three times the original number.'  
**As simple as that! But what was the number?**

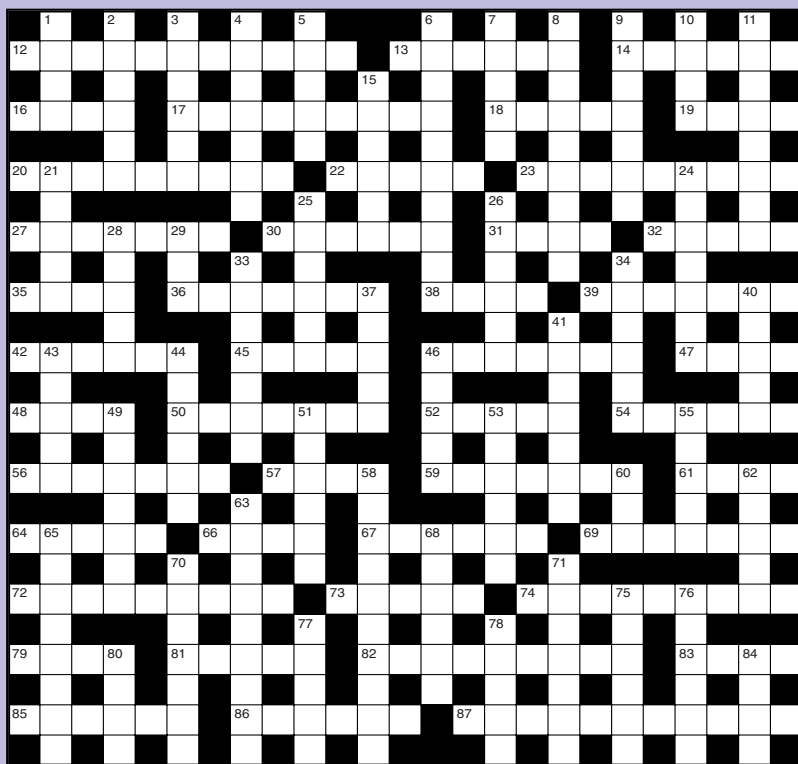
2. Beryl checked the chocolates in the box. 'Judy, you're the oldest,' she said. 'So here's one for you, and now you can pick a third of the rest.' It didn't take the girl long to choose, and then her mother continued. 'I didn't forget you, Doug. Here's a nice one for you, and you can take a third of what's left. That will leave six for Peter when he gets home.'  
**How many did Judy get?**

3. Martin picked up the photo. 'Your two teenage boys, eh? Fine looking kids,' he commented. 'How old are they?' 'A teaser for you,' Nigel replied. 'There's also Susan, our youngest child. The sum of their three ages is one less than three times the age of the second child, and Susan is two years younger than half the age of the eldest.'  
**What were the three ages?**

## SUDOKU



## CROSSWORD



#### ACROSS

- Besides (11)
- A fat (6)
- Intimate (4,2)
- Run away (4)
- Home (9)
- Happen (5)
- Cushions (4)
- Rosy (9)
- Disreputable (5)
- Comedy (9)
- Bird (7)
- Delayed (4,2)
- Mess (4)
- Flower (5)
- Wood (4)
- Over (7)
- Call (4)
- Reading (7)
- Selected (6)
- Do (5)
- Go before (7)
- Dwell on (4)
- Cut (4)
- Squeezed (7)
- Number (5)
- Diatribes (6)
- Wanted (7)
- Consider (4)
- Captive (7)
- Section (4)
- Utter (5)
- Photographed (4)
- Ménage (6)
- Behaviour (7)
- Self-employed (9)
- Monster (5)
- Clumsy (9)
- Lock (4)
- Oarsman (5)
- Profitable (9)
- Lay off (4)
- Come to (6)
- Alters (6)
- Forte (6,5)

#### DOWN

- Tug (4)
- Current (6)
- Is told (6)
- Funny (7)
- Wife (5)
- Great (5-5)
- Seat (5)
- Hilarious (9)
- Treatment (7)
- Picture (4)
- Race (8)
- Of course (6)
- Lift (5)
- Excessive (3,4)
- Waste (6)
- Transform (6)
- Rings (5)
- Decay (3)
- Biscuit (7)
- Failing (6)
- Loathed (5)
- Bitter (5)
- Many (7)
- So (5)
- Child (6)
- Mend (5)
- Confidential (7)
- Case (6)
- Whisper (6)
- Secured (5)
- Musical (2,4,4)
- Self (3)
- Astonishes (5)
- Plant (9)
- I'm sorry (6,2)
- Threat (6)
- Birds (7)
- Renegade (7)
- The cloth (6)
- Instruction (6)
- Endeavoured (5)
- Squander (5)
- Tense (4)
- Ice cream (4)

## SOLUTIONS

**9-er**  
9-letter word: BACHELORS, Chess, Soccer, Baseball.

**X is to Y**  
1. Gnasher, 2. Squid, 3. Bob Hope.

**Mindbender**  
Ninety-four metres.

**Split Decision**  
A is the mirror image.

**Alphamuddle**  
DOWN: 1 Pull, 2 Stream, 3 Learns, 4 Amusing, 5 Bude, 6 Super-duper, 7 Stool, 8 Pileless, 9 Therapy, 10 Sharp, 11 Handicap, 15 Indeed, 21 Raise, 24 Too much, 25 Refuse, 26 Change, 28 Tolls, 29 Rot, 33 Cracker, 34 Detect, 37 Hated, 40 Acrid, 41 Several, 43 Sheath, 53 Rustle, 55 Roped, 58 My Fair Lady, 60 Ego, 62 Racks, 63 Chickweed, 65 Pardon me, 68 Menace, 70 Parrots, 71 Traitor, 75 Cleary, 76 Lesson, 77 Tried, 78 Waste, 80 Taut, 84 Cone.

**Alphamuddle**  
DOWN: 1 Pull, 2 Stream, 3 Learns, 4 Amusing, 5 Bude, 6 Super-duper, 7 Stool, 8 Pileless, 9 Therapy, 10 Sharp, 11 Handicap, 15 Indeed, 21 Raise, 24 Too much, 25 Refuse, 26 Change, 28 Tolls, 29 Rot, 33 Cracker, 34 Detect, 37 Hated, 40 Acrid, 41 Several, 43 Sheath, 53 Rustle, 55 Roped, 58 My Fair Lady, 60 Ego, 62 Racks, 63 Chickweed, 65 Pardon me, 68 Menace, 70 Parrots, 71 Traitor, 75 Cleary, 76 Lesson, 77 Tried, 78 Waste, 80 Taut, 84 Cone.

**Sudoku**  
6 8 9 3 2 7 4 1 5  
1 7 4 5 9 7 3 8  
3 7 1 6 8 9 2 4  
2 3 1 9 6 2 8 5 4  
9 2 4 8 1 6 7 3  
5 6 4 7 3 2 1 8  
8 1 3 5 6 9 4 7  
2 5 7 8 1 4 6 3  
4 9 8 2 3 7 5 6



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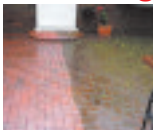
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# Meeting modern needs

By Graham Breeze

**The suits at Suzuki will likely deny it but the design of the new Vitara looks to have been strongly influenced by the Range Rover Evoque.**

It's over 25 years since the original model debuted and now there's simply no comparison with the latest incarnation recognisable as a fresh and sporty utility vehicle.

So to be compared with the hugely successful Evoque should have Suzuki bosses cracking open the champagne and designers dancing in the street – there could be no greater compliment.

Suzuki says the new Vitara meets contemporary needs and with a new Allgrip four-wheel drive system as an option will appeal to a broader audience and should do well in a SUV sector, where opposition will come from Vauxhall Mokka and Fiat 500X.

Large wheels and higher ground clearance mean the new Vitara is happy off-road and though the test area used at launch wasn't too demanding it did enough to suggest this Suzuki has a place away from the tarmac. And as well as the Allgrip system, drivers have the option of a choice of four modes to suit the driving conditions and road surface. But don't expect Evoque performance when off tarmac.

Where Evoque influence is clear comes with personalisation choice. Exterior colour choices and a range of design details allow buyers to personalise to their own tastes with 10 body colours available – includ-

ing five two-tone combinations. There's no mistaking the Vitara as an SUV option, with aerodynamics reflected in designed bumper openings, a roofline that slopes smoothly downwards towards the rear and with attractively shaped side mirrors.

LED headlamps with blue projector covers are available on the SZ5 upgrade, contributing to energy saving and looking cool.

Suzuki has taken the opportunity to up their technology game with the Vitara.

An audio system with navigation and smartphone connectivity gives access to advanced features (available on SZ-T and SZ5).

The Radar Brake Support system (available as standard on SZ5) offers cutting-edge safety by using milliwave radar to prevent or reduce the chance of a collision.

Highlights for SZ4 include seven airbags, 16in alloys, DAB Radio with USB and Bluetooth, cruise control with speed limiter, auto air conditioning, front and rear electric windows and projector headlamps.

SZ-T adds 17in silver painted alloy wheels, rear privacy glass, smartphone link audio and navigation system.

Moving up to SZ5 adds LED projector headlights, 17in polished alloy wheels, suede seat fabric, keyless entry with start button, adaptive cruise control, Radar Brake Support and panoramic sunroof.

Once in the cabin there's a sporty look and feel with a boldly-shaped instrument panel and a U-shape design around the gear shift lever helping communicate SUV toughness. Round clock and round ventilation louvers help give the interior a youthful feel. The cabin space is impressive even though it's a bit tight in the back for three.

The seven-model Vitara range is powered



**'It's over 25 years since the original model debuted and now there's simply no comparison with the latest incarnation'**

by the M16A 1.6-litre petrol engine or the D16AA 1.6-litre DDiS engine and produces the best fuel economy figures and CO2 levels in class and yet still produces gutsy performance.

The CO2 emissions for the petrol engine with two-wheel drive/manual transmission are 123g/km and 127g/km for the petrol engine with two-wheel drive/six-speed auto transmission.

Suzuki's Allgrip system enables CO2 emissions that are remarkably low for a

four-wheel drive SUV with 130g/km for the five-speed manual transmission and 131g/km with the six-speed automatic transmission. The DDiS engine, emits just 106g/km with two-wheel drive/six-speed manual transmission and 111g/km with four-wheel drive/six-speed manual transmission.

Prices remain as competitive as ever, ranging from £13,999 to £21,299 – possibly opening up the 4x4 sector to a new range of buyers.

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**Official Fuel Consumption Figures for the Suzuki Vitara range mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km): Urban 42.1-61.4 (6.7-4.6), Extra Urban 55.4-76.3 (5.1-3.7), Combined 49.5-70.6 (5.7-4.0), CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 131-106 g/km.**

The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. Vitara range: Vitara SZ4 1.6 Petrol Manual available at £13,999 to Vitara SZ5 DDiS ALLGRIP Manual with Rugged Pack available at £22,549. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st July 2015 to 30th September 2015 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. \*Model shown is a Vitara SZ5 1.6 petrol available at £18,499 on the road (Single-tone metallic paint available at an additional cost of £430, Dual-tone paint available at an additional cost of £800.) †Optional extra for SZ5 models only, optional ALLGRIP 4-wheel Drive available at additional cost.





# Picanto is pitched perfectly

**It's not uncommon to assess a vehicle and wonder why it has been launched.**

Some manufacturers get their product design cycles out of phase with economic conditions, while others launch into a once fashionable market that's gone cold. Then there are those that arrive plum square with the right product at the right time and the second generation Kia Picanto citycar is most definitely one of the latter.

No model in this class has a sniff of a chance unless it can guarantee tiny day-to-day running costs and the Picanto certainly answers that particular call.

Both engines have been designed to offer maximum efficiency, from their continuously variable valve timing to their low-friction valve springs. The net result is that the 1.0-litre unit emits just 99g/km of carbon dioxide in standard trim. Kia goes one stage further with its suite of EcoDynamics technologies (automatic stop-start - ISG, advanced alternator control, upgraded starter motor and low-rolling resistance tyres), cutting emissions even further - to between 95 and 102 g/km. Combined fuel economy for the 1.0-litre model teamed with the EcoDynamics gear is 67.3mpg.

Priced between £8,145 and £12,595, the Picanto doesn't do anything that's particularly fresh or radical but its blend of affordability coupled with solid engineering, impressive build quality, generous equipment and clean styling build upon its tiny ongoing running costs to form a convincing buying proposition. Back that up with a great warranty and the Kia Picanto emerges as one of the very best citycars we've seen in quite some time.

● The all-New Kia Sorento has ambition.



**'The UK range hinges around a 197bhp 2.2-litre turbodiesel engine and a great deal of work has gone into improving refinement'**

What started life as a budget-priced larger 4x4 has been fettled and polished into something far more refined. This third generation model looks to have the finish and engineering to put the frighteners on the SUV-class high fliers.

The UK range hinges around a 197bhp 2.2-litre turbodiesel engine and a great deal of work has gone into improving refinement, with a torsionally stiffer body-shell, additional soundproofing, acoustic shields built into the engine bay, and a thicker dashboard. Depending on speed, ambient noise within the cabin is claimed to be between three and six per cent quieter than the previous car. The suspension and steering systems have also been comprehensively reworked.

There's a stack of room inside there though, with five- or seven-seat models offered. There's greater legroom throughout. Cargo space also increases, and capacity with the third row seats folded flat is up 17.5 per cent, from 515 to 605-litres. Prices start somewhere in the region of £27,000 which is still excellent value for money. The Sorento looks a good deal more expensive than it is and even in a notoriously badge-conscious sector it would appear to be just too much of a bargain to overlook.

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# Fabia range is extended

Škoda has expanded its popular award-winning Fabia range with the introduction of the new Fabia Monte Carlo, which adds enhanced exterior body styling and a sporty new interior.

The Fabia Monte Carlo builds on the already comprehensive standard equipment of the Fabia SE. It adds 16in Italia black alloy wheels, black radiator grille and black door mirror caps, body-coloured rear spoiler, front fog lights, LED daytime running lights, sunset glass, Monte Carlo badging on the B-pillar and a panoramic glass sunroof.

On the inside, additional equipment includes bespoke front sports seats, front

and rear floor mats with red stitching, black decorative inserts, a cherry red centre console, Monte Carlo pedals, multi-function sports steering wheel, pearl grey roof lining and carpet, and Monte Carlo badging on the front door inserts. The Fabia Monte Carlo Estate also comes with black roof rails.

All of the additional equipment is on top of the generously equipped SE model which comes with Bolero infotainment system with 6.5-inch colour touchscreen, DAB radio, Bluetooth and SmartLink (a system that mirrors certain smartphone and Apple iPhone functions on the car's screen), air conditioning, Front Assist emergency braking system, remote locking and alarm.

The Fabia Monte Carlo is available with the same wide range of engines in both hatch and estate. There are three petrol units: a 1.0-litre, three-cylinder 75PS MPI with five-speed manual gearbox; a 1.2-litre four-cyl-



**'The new Monte Carlo brings a slice of rally-inspired styling to the Fabia'**

inder 90PS TSI with five-speed manual gearbox; a 1.2-litre four-cylinder 110PS with six-speed manual or seven-speed DSG gearbox; and two diesels: a 1.4-litre three-cylinder unit with 90PS and a five-speed manual gearbox; and a 1.4-litre three cylinder unit with 105PS and a five-speed manual gearbox.

The Monte Carlo name is a link to Škoda's rally success, and the previous-generation Fabia Monte Carlo was a best-seller

in the UK. The new Monte Carlo brings a slice of rally-inspired styling to the Fabia, which was recently named What Car? magazine's Car of the Year.

Prices start from £14,645 OTR. A full list of prices for the Fabia Monte Carlo follows. For further details of these and other award-winning Škoda models see [www.skoda.co.uk](http://www.skoda.co.uk)

The Fabia Monte Carlo is available to order now, with first deliveries in September.



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Official fuel consumption for the ŠKODA range in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 21.7 (13.0) to 72.4 (3.9), Extra Urban 40.4 (7.0) to 91.1 (3.1), Combined 30.4 (9.3) to 83.1 (3.4). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the ŠKODA range are 217 to 88g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.



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## Smoking law, what does it mean?

**Smoking while driving or sitting in a car with anyone under the age of 18 will become illegal in England from October. Anyone flouting the ban will face a £50 fixed-penalty fine, but there will be no points added to the driver's licence.**

The driver will also be liable if they let another occupant smoke in the car with minors present, even if the driver himself is not the one smoking.

England joins Wales in introducing the smoking ban and Scotland is set to follow suit in a bid to save children from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke.

It is calculated that 430,000 children are exposed to secondhand smoke in cars every week in the UK, and the results of passive smoking can be fatal. Children exposed to passive smoking are more at risk of developing asthma, meningitis and even suffering cot death. Many children do not know the risks they are being exposed to,

and others feel they are unable to ask adults to stop smoking. This is why the ban has been introduced, to protect children who would otherwise be put in danger.

Studies have shown the harmful chemicals in tobacco smoke remain in the air of a car for up to two and half hours, even when the windows have been opened. This stale air contains up to 4,000 chemicals, and some of them are known to cause cancer.

Pro-smoking groups argue the ban is unnecessary because it will be very difficult to enforce. Simon Clark, of smoking group Forest, says: "Most smokers know it is inconsiderate to smoke with children in the car and don't do it. They do not need to be told by government or the police. To enforce this law, the Government will need an army of snoopers to tell the police of any incident."

However, road safety groups argue the smoking ban will not only improve children's health when travelling by car, but also improve driver safety. One road safety expert says: "Lighting a cigarette while driving has been shown

to be more distracting than talking on a mobile phone.

Holding a lit cigarette when driving is also a distraction that requires the smoker to take his or her hands off the steering wheel at frequent intervals.

"Add to that the danger of hot ash and embers flying around inside the vehicle, or the tip of the cigarette burning the driver, and it's abundantly clear that smoking and driving do not mix, in exactly the same way drinking and driving do not belong together."

The advice from road safety groups is, if a car's occupant must smoke, they should pull over where it's safe to do so and take a break from driving while they light up.

Even so, health experts warn smoking reduces the level of oxygen in the blood and can reduce driver concentration. Anyone considering driving after smoking should leave at least 10 minutes for their oxygen levels to increase before getting behind the wheel again.

It takes 12 hours for oxygen and carbon monoxide levels to return to completely normal after smoking.

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2012 61	CITROEN 1.0 VTR+ 3-door, Red, 20,000 miles, A/C, Zero Road Tax .....	£4,999
2012 12	CITROEN DS3 1.6 VTI 'D' STYLE AUTO Red with Black Roof and Mirrors, 16" Alloy Wheels, Cruise Control, 19,000 miles, One Owner, FSH .....	£8,699
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2011 60	MITSUBISHI LANCER 2.0 TDi HATCHBACK Manual, Metallic Blue, 57,000 miles, FSH .....	£6,499
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2012 62	NISSAN NOTE 1.4 N-TEC 5-door. Manual, 5,000 miles, 1 owner, Metallic Blue, FSH .....	£7,999
2009 09	PEUGEOT 207 1.4 3-door, Metallic Blue, 61,000 miles .....	£3,999
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2010 10	SEAT IBIZA 1.6 SPORT DSG 3-door, Red, 62,000 miles .....	£5,999
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2013 62	VW TIGUAN 4x4 2.0 TDi SE Manual, 1 owner, only 10,000 miles, FSH, Metallic Red .....	<b>SOLD</b>
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# Motoring

# Take a look at the new 208

If you're going to treat yourself to a brand new 65-plate car, why not buy one that's so fresh the paint will barely be dry?

The significantly revised Peugeot 208 is available to order now, ahead of the registration change on September 1, with its arrival in dealerships soon after. It will mark the start of another chapter in the brand's highly successful 'small car' story.

Although an advanced and highly innovative vehicle when it was first launched in 2012, the Peugeot 208 has now been finessed in many key areas.

With a more assertive design and new ultra-efficient Euro 6 engines, the re-invigorated model boasts a much enhanced specification, with extra safety equipment and desirable new comfort and convenience features – all the right ingredients for today's discerning customer.

The 208's new front end creates a sharper and more precise line, with a wider grille and deeper chrome finish that is now fully integrated.

At the rear, the LED light clusters have been redesigned to incorporate Peugeot's signature 3D 'claws' motif. Enhancements include exclusive new 16 and 17in wheel options, available in a choice of painted, diamante and laser-engraved finishes.

A palette of 13 vibrant colours means there's something for everyone, including a world-first technology for a production vehicle of 'textured paint'. It illustrates perfectly the sophistication and premium styling that enhances the entire Peugeot range.

Personalisation option packs – two interior and two exterior – are now also part of the 208 range, each available in either Menthol White or Lime Yellow. These striking additions to the 208's elegant style are a factory-fit option from Active trim level and



in combination with the other design enhancements, they're indicative of Peugeot's continued move upmarket.

Key to the appeal of the new 208 is its efficient engine range. The Brand's critically acclaimed BlueHDi technology is the most effective emission control system on the market today and means every diesel 208 has CO2 emissions of below 95g/km.

Expected to prove popular and now available to order is the 1.6-litre 75 S&S diesel engine, mated to a five-speed manual gear-

box. It's capable of an astonishing 94.2 mpg on the combined cycle – a segment record – with CO2 emissions of just 79 g/km.

Petrol engines remain a popular choice with retail customers and the revised lineup promises high mileage and low running costs.

New PureTech three-cylinder units – either 1.0-litre 68hp or 1.2-litre 82hp – are both now available in the 208.

The new 208 is available in three and five-door body styles and comes in four

trim levels: Access A/C, Active, Allure and GT Line. The latter is a new addition to the range and, following the lead of the larger 308, adopts many of the styling attributes of the GTi.

For a more performance-oriented body style, GTi, GTi Prestige and 'GTi by Peugeot Sport' are available as three-door variants. The latter builds on the success of the 208 GTi 30th, the most exclusive and radical GTi the company has created. With unique badging, it features a lowered ride height, wider tracks, Torsen-differential, 18in wheels, matt black exterior features and sports seats.

The list of new equipment on the 208 is headed by Active City Brake, which makes it possible to avoid an accident or reduce its seriousness, in urban conditions, at speeds of less than 20mph.

## Options

Park Assist and a reversing camera are available as a combined option from the Allure trim level too.

All versions of the 208 now come with manual air conditioning and Bluetooth connectivity as standard.

Prices for the new Peugeot 208 start from £11,695, with the most popular Active and Allure models priced from £12,495 and £14,195 respectively.

Why not pay using Peugeot's innovative Just Add Fuel finance offer? You can have a 208 Active three-door PureTech 68 from as little as £149 PCM. The offer currently includes free Active City Brake, visibility pack and reversing camera. Or, for just £179 PCM, you can opt for the 208 Allure five-door PureTech 82, which includes Active City Brake, reversing camera and satellite navigation as standard.

The APR on both offers is just 3.9 per cent, with an incentivised deposit contribution of £1,000.

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64 Reg	Skoda Yeti, Elegance 140ps 4x4 5dr HBK 2.0 Diesel, FSH, 4621mls	£19,995		
64 Reg	Skoda Fabia, Monte Carlo 5dr HBK 1.2 Petrol, FSH, 1248mls	£11,295		

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64 Reg	Fiesta, Zetec EcoBoost 100PS 5dr HBK 1.0 Petrol, FSH, 3147mls, £0 RFL	£11,295	£300	£10,995
14 Reg	Ford Focus, Zetec 5dr HBK 1.6 Petrol, FSH, 28287mls	£9,995	£500	£9,495
10 Reg	Honda Jazz, Si 5dr HBK 1.3 Petrol, FSH, 37264mls	£6,495	£200	£6,295
09 Reg	Kia Sorrento, XE AUTO 5dr 4x4 2.5 Diesel, FSH, 59092mls	£8,495	£500	£7,995
12 Reg	Skoda Yeti, SE 5dr HBK 1.2 Petrol, FSH, 23784mls	£13,495	£500	£12,995
13 Reg	Skoda Yeti, Elegance 170PS 4x4 5dr HBK 2.0 Diesel, FSH, 30375mls	£16,795	£800	£15,995
61 Reg	Vauxhall Astra, Excite 5dr HBK 1.7 Diesel, 21927mls, £30 RFL	£8,495	£900	£7,595

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63 Reg	Ford Ka, Edge 3dr HBK 1.2 Petrol, FSH, 24159mls, £30 RFL	£5,795
62 Reg	Ford Fiesta, Edge 3dr HBK 1.4 Petrol, FSH, 20866mls	£6,595
12 Reg	Ford Fiesta, Zetec 3dr HBK 1.4 Diesel, FSH, 14941mls, £20 RFL	£8,295
14 Reg	Ford Fiesta, Zetec 3dr HBK 1.25 Petrol, FSH, 9641mls, £30 RFL	£8,995
62 Reg	Ford Fiesta, Zetec 5dr HBK 1.4 Diesel, FSH, 53092mls	£7,295
12 Reg	Ford Fusion, Zetec Climate 5dr HBK 1.4 Petrol, FSH, 6636mls	£7,295
59 Reg	Ford Fusion, Zetec 5dr HBK 1.6 Petrol, FSH, 22483mls	£5,495
61 Reg	Ford Focus, ST 3dr HBK 1.6 Petrol, FSH, 11834mls	£9,495
59 Reg	Ford Focus, ST 3dr HBK 2.5 Petrol, 38509mls	£11,995
12 Reg	Land Rover Freelander, XS 5dr 4x4 2.2 Diesel, FSH, 25054mls	£18,995
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12 Reg	Skoda Fabia, SE 5dr EST 1.6 Diesel, FSH, 35465mls, £20 RFL	£7,495
14 Reg	Skoda Yeti, SE DSG AUTO 5dr HBK 1.2 Petrol, FSH, 7739mls	£16,795
13 Reg	Toyota Yaris, SR 5dr HBK 1.3 Petrol, FSH, 18514mls	£8,295
12 Reg	Vauxhall Astra, SRi 5dr HBK 1.6 Petrol, 21764mls	£8,695
62 Reg	Volkswagen Polo, S 3dr HBK 1.2 Petrol, FSH, 2938mls	£7,295

## JUST ARRIVED

60 Reg	Fiat Panda, Dynamic 5dr HBK 1.2 Petrol, FSH, 30289mls, £30 RFL	£3,995
63 Reg	Fiesta, Zetec EcoBoost 100PS 5dr HBK 1.0 Petrol, FSH, 14547mls, £0 RFL	£9,995
15 Reg	Ford Focus, Titanium 5dr HBK 1.5 Diesel, FSH, 7108mls, £0 RFL	£17,595
13 Reg	Ford Focus, ST-3 3dr HBK 2.0 Petrol, FSH, 11418mls	£17,995
57 Reg	Skoda Fabia, 3 5dr HBK 1.4 Diesel, FSH, 39288mls, £30 RFL	£4,995
14 Reg	Skoda Yeti, SE 5dr HBK 1.2 Petrol, FSH, 3235mls	£15,995

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# Iconic 500 driving ahead

Exactly eight years and more than 1.5 million units since it was launched (on the 50th anniversary of the original's launch) the iconic Fiat 500 makes way for its successor: the New Fiat 500.

Retaining the unmistakable look that has made it a global best-seller, the new Fiat 500 hasn't grown in size but instead has grown in maturity with advanced technologies, improved efficiency, even more customisation ideas and a Centro Stile Fiat-refreshed exterior and interior.

The most changes can be found at the front: New Fiat 500 retains the 'face' of its predecessors with headlights which are still circular in shape but which adopt innovative polyelliptical modules for improved night vision and extra safety. These clusters integrate the dipped-beam headlamps and turn signals, while the lower light cluster integrates the main beam headlights and LED daytime running lights, which adopt the circular profile of the lamp to graphically reproduce the zeros of the Fiat 500 logo.

The bonnet retains its distinctive, traditional clamshell form, while the trapezoidal nose gets more pronounced ribbing and the auxiliary air vent is now fed via a three-dimensional grille flanked by chrome brightwork to give the New Fiat 500 stronger visual presence.

New 'empty' light clusters, comprising ring-shaped structures define the revised look of the rear, with the fog and reversing lights relocated to the edges of the redesigned bumper trim to improve safety by separating illumination functions.

New alloy wheel designs are also introduced on the New Fiat 500: Pop Star and

Lounge models have 15in alloy wheels as standard (a £320 option on Pop models) with 16in wheels available as a £370 option on Pop models and a £180 upgrade option on Pop Star and Lounge models, including an elegant, new, 16in diamond-cut design.

The colour palette now totals 13 hues, including standard Bossa Nova white and two brand new colours: Glam Coral pastel and Avantgarde Bordeaux metallic. In total, there is a choice of six special pastel shades (a £350 option), five metallic colours (a £460 option) and one tri-coat finish (Urban White at £740) available. Two striking black-yellow and black-red variants are also available as part of the Fiat 500 Second Skin programme which offers a range of customisation options capable of satisfying every creative taste imaginable.

## Fashionable

There are two Second Skin options: the first features a fashionable, geometric pattern along the belt line only (£140) and is available on Fiat 500 and Fiat 500C models, while the larger skin options cover the upper half of hardtop models only and cost £780 on Pop and Pop Star versions and £460 on the Lounge. Five patterns are also offered.

The interior of the Fiat 500 also has numerous enhancements, most noticeably in its dashboard design which now integrates the advanced Uconnect infotainment across the range. The unit is not only easier to read and more intuitive to use, it also improves connectivity and functionality with steering wheel-mounted audio controls.

The Lounge version is equipped with the Uconnect 5in radio LIVE system which is a touchscreen unit complete with Bluetooth hands-free calling and music streaming; voice recognition and an SMS reader for reading text messages received on compatible telephones. It is available as a £250 option on



Pop and Pop Star models. DAB digital radio is also available with this unit for an additional £100.

The front seats adopt a more ergonomic shape and the interior upholstery is available in ten colour combinations on Lounge models with contrasting 'crescent' upper portions and head restraints in black or ivory eco-leather. Black, bordeaux or tobacco Frau leather upholstery is also available (depending on model), with embroidered 500 logos on the crescent and contrasting bolster accents.

Further enhancements include a new lided glove box on the passenger's side and a revised centre console with new cup holder,

relocated USB/AUX-IN ports and a more conveniently positioned 12V power socket. New electric window switches, which adopt a push-down-pull-up operation, complete the visible interior revisions, while additional soundproofing panels in the wheelhouse and firewall making the passenger compartment even more comfortable and refined.

The New Fiat 500 is powered by a range of environment-friendly, Euro 6-compliant engines combined with five- and six-speed manual gearboxes or a Dualogic robotised transmission depending on the model. The engine line-up available at launch includes the 1.2 litre 69hp, the TwinAir 85hp and the TwinAir 105hp.

The New Fiat 500 will be available with three trim levels – Pop, Pop Star and Lounge – and in hatchback and convertible versions.

Standard equipment across the range includes seven airbags; remote central locking; electric front windows; electric mirrors; Uconnect radio with six speakers, AUX-IN and USB ports; steering wheel-mounted audio controls; start & stop; a space-saver spare wheel and LED daytime running lights. A fully-electric convertible roof with heated glass rear screen is standard on all 500C models.

The car will go on sale in the UK in early September with prices starting at £10,890 OTR.

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Representative Example Fiat Panda Pop 1.2 8V 69hp †

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# New look and a lot more

By Matt Joy

It's one of the nation's favourite MPVs and now the Ford Grand C-Max has been refreshed for 2015. But does it still have what it takes to carry families and be fun to drive?

At long last the C-Max, Ford of Europe's third-best-selling model, has been brought into line with the One Ford programme, so there are new looks, new technologies and a simplified cabin.

This, the seven-seat Grand C-Max, has had the same upgrades. Smaller revisions have made their way in, too, like the re-statement of a spare wheel in lieu of the (generally useless) tyre repair kit.

The Grand C-Max loses some of the five-seat version's looks, for which you can blame the higher roof line and metal channels to allow the rear doors to slide backwards. Practicality takes precedent over style here.

But despite that, this is a car whose image is actually on the 'cool' side of family transport. It looks great from most angles and places more emphasis on driver enjoyment than most dishwasher-dull compact seven-seaters do. If you're a kid with three or four siblings, you wouldn't mind being bussed to school in this.

Seven-seaters don't come any smaller than this for a reason. Despite the brilliantly practical sliding rear doors things are rather

cramped in the very back, so even kids might start to want more legroom after a few miles.

The middle row can slide forwards to expand the non-existent foot space back there, but then that cuts down on space for those in row two.

If you're travelling seven-up, it's short distances or relatively frequent stops.

The cabin has loads of convenient touches, though, like a central bottle bin that you can get your whole forearm into, a rack of adjustable grips to hold different sizes of can or bottle, a proper glovebox and plenty of connection ports for charging electronics.

There are two overwhelming and lasting impressions from a drive in the Grand C-Max. The first is how pleasantly well connected it feels to the road. It feels solidly engineered and good to drive without having to be driven fast. Even if you can't put your finger on the technical reasons, you'll notice it.

The second news is less good, in that there is too much interference from the new active safety systems. Graphics blink away with readouts of your proximity to other cars (pointless), steering wheel vibrations warn you when you're at the edge of your lane (I have eyes for that) and annoying beeps and flashing warnings tell you when the car thinks you're going to hit something, which, invariably, you're not.

Ford has good form on the driving front, though, and the seating position is spot-on. It's easy to get on with the C-Max in both its body styles.

Improved residual values will, says Ford, lead to cheaper PCP finance contracts for



.....  
**'It feels solidly engineered and good to drive without having to be driven fast.'**  
.....

end users, although that remains to be seen when it arrives in showrooms in the summer.

The pricing structure centres around a core of likely volume-sellers between £21,000 and £25,000, making it a relatively affordable route into a well-specified seven-seater.

Clearly, families are the target market. Generous parents with only two kids (but popular ones at school) will appreciate

the ability to ferry extra young 'uns around when needed, and productive mums and dads with limited parking space at home will appreciate the Grand C-Max's neat dimensions.

This car summed up in a single word: Advanced

If this car was a: Car designer, it would leave itself largely as it is, but it might ditch some of the unnecessary electronic inter-rptions.

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REPRESENTATIVE EXAMPLE: NEW FORD FOCUS ZETEC 1.0T ECOBOOST 100PS S6\*

36 monthly payments	Cash price	Customer deposit	Deposit allowance	Amount of credit	Total amount payable (inc. £100 monthly bank charges)	GMV (optional final payment)	Mileage per annum	Excess mileage charge (pence per mile)	Term	36 months	4.3% APR Representative
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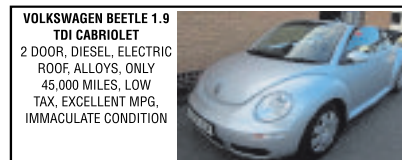
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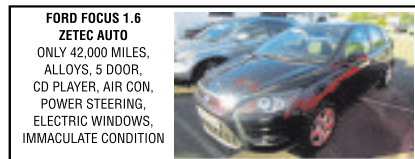
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Wem	17	9	3	2287					
Reman Services	17	10	1	5	1276				
Frankton	17	9	4	2	2275				
St Georges	17	8	3	3	3243				
Brosley	17	7	2	7	1208				
Quatt & SS	17	6	1	9	2122				
Quatt	17	6	1	9	2192				
Madeley	17	6	2	8	1185				
Bornere Heath	17	4	0	12	1148				
Cound	17	2	3	11	1138				
Wroxeter Grove	17	2	3	11	1122				
Division 2									
	P	W	D	L	C/A	P			
Albrighton	17	13	1	1	2310				
Shelton	17	10	2	3	2300				
Forton	17	10	3	3	1293				
Allscott	17	8	3	5	1247				
Alberbury	17	8	0	8	1245				
Newtown	17	7	4	1	2237				
Knockin & Kinn	17	7	1	7	2230				
Market Drayton	17	6	2	6	3196				
Beacon	17	4	2	10	1191				
Lilleshall	17	3	3	10	1179				
Pontesbury	17	3	4	9	1153				
Tibberton	17	2	1	12	1131				
Division 3									
	P	W	D	L	C/A	P			
Condover	17	10	4	1	2305				
Wellington III	17	9	3	4	1260				
Ellesmere	17	9	3	5	1256				
Willby	17	7	4	4	2244				
Wellpool	17	7	3	4	2225				
Montgomery	17	6	4	6	1208				
Cae Glas	17	6	1	7	3178				
Church Stretton	17	4	3	8	2171				
Shrewsbury III	17	5	3	8	1170				
Church Aston	17	4	1	9	3165				
Bishops Castle	17	5	3	7	2161				
Much Wenlock	17	2	2	12	1139				
Division 4									
	P	W	D	L	C/A	P			
Iscoyd & FB	17	9	5	2	1285				
Wheaton Aston	17	8	5	3	1279				
Church Aston	17	8	4	3	3191				
Shifnal III	17	8	4	4	1243				
Llanidloes	17	7	3	5	2229				
Oswestry III	17	6	4	6	1223				
Ludlow & S S III	17	5	3	8	1202				
Calverhall	17	4	2	9	3191				
Corvedale	17	5	1	11	1173				
Chelmarsh	17	4	5	7	1163				
Wroxeter Grove III	17	3	6	7	1137				
Harpers	17	1	6	8	2137				
Division 5									
	P	W	D	L	C/A	P			
Trysil & Sels	16	9	1	0	1	1			
Hodnet & Popley	16	9	2	1	14	0			
St Georges III	16	10	2	3	10	0			
Harcourt	16	10	5	1	20	0			
Hinstock	16	5	6	4	17	0			
Overton-on-Dee	16	6	9	0	20	0			
Acton Reynold	16	8	9	0	20	0			
Coat Hall	16	5	6	3	27	0			
Beacon III	16	5	4	11	0	0			
Guilsfield	16	8	3	5	4	0			
Quatt III	16	5	3	8	4	0			
Division 6									
	P	W	D	L	C/A	P			
Newport III	17	11	4	1	1327				
Bornere Heath III	17	7	7	2	1279				
Wormersley III	17	8	6	2	1267				
Wern III	17	5	8	3	1256				
Alberbury III	17	9	5	2	1252				
Acton Reynold III	17	6	5	6	1238				
Frankton III	17	5	6	5	1203				
Wellington V	17	4	6	5	2193				
Knockin & Kinn III	17	4	7	5	1187				
Reman Services III	17	2	4	9	2144				
Madeley III	17	2	2	12	1111				
Whitchurch III	17	1	11	3	3108				
Division 7									
	P	W	D	L	C/A	P			
Bridgnorth III	17	16	0	0	1359				
Quayside	17	13	1	3	0315				
Pontesbury III	17	12	2	2	1267				
Albrighton III	17	10	3	3	1268				
Acton Reynold II	17	11	5	1	1268				
Shrewsbury IV	16	8	1	5	2212				
Ludlow & S S IV	17	6	3	5	3203				
Corvedale II	17	5	3	8	1182				
Lilleshall IV	17	6	2	8	1154				
Knockin & Kinn IV	17	5	2	9	2169				
Lilleshall III	17	5	2	9	2139				
Wellington VI	17	4	2	10	1139				
Much Wenlock II	17	2	4	10	1139				
Wellington IV	17	3	4	9	1136				
Llanidloes II	17	4	2	9	2133				
Madeley IV	17	2	12	2	97				
Allscott III	17	1	4	10	1	91			
Reserve Division 1									
	P	W	D	L	C/A	P			
Cound	17	11	2	3	1312				
Ludlow & S S	17	8	2	6	1273				
Reman Services	17	9	1	6	1256				
Wem	17	6	4	4	3253				
Quatt	17	6	3	8	1240				
St Georges	17	6	3	7	1220				
Wellington	17	6	4	6	1206				
Frankton	17	5	2	9	1190				
Alberbury	17	4	3	8	1183				
Madeley	17	4	4	8	2162				
Bornere Heath	17	3	2	11	1125				
Reserve Division 2									
	P	W	D	L	C/A	P			
Knockin & Kinn	17	10	4	1	2298				
Lilleshall	17	9	4	3	2290				
Alberbury	17	8	4	3	2266				
Willby	17	6	3	8	1233				
Wroxeter Grove	17	6	4	5	2191				
Shelton	17	3	4	8	2183				
Pontesbury	17	4	6	6	1180				
Forton	17	4	4	8	1174				
Cae Glas	17	6	5	3	2224				
Condover	17	5	4	6	2166				
Wellpool	17	5	3	8	1151				
Allscott	17	2	4	10	1136				
Reserve Division 3									
	P	W	D	L	C/A	P			
Montgomery	17	10	2	2	2289				
Brosley	17	10	2	3	2278				
Ellesmere	17	10	2	4	1256				
Market Drayton	17	7	4	2	1234				
Shifnal	17	8	5	4	1232				
Iscoyd & FB	17	9	1	7	0230				
Oswestry	17	6	1	9	2207				
Bishops Castle	17	4	2	10	1163				
Tibberton	17	4	3	9	1146				
St Georges	17	5	2	9	1131				
Wroxeter Grove	17	2	0	14	1	71			



Division 2

	P	W	P	W	P
Newport A.	152	101	2857		
Audlem A.	152	932	780		
Whixall B.	152	862	966		
Whixall A.	152	856	267		
Ellesmere B.	152	846	255		
Chester Rd B.	152	782	643		
Cholmondeley A.	152	826	114		
Newport C.	152	692	551		
Ellesmere C.	152	812	357		
Chester Rd C.	152	652	253		
Cheswardine	152	694	299		
Con Club.	152	642	456		
Tilstock A.	152	532	280		
Nant/Brown	152	542	221		

Division 3

	P	W	P	W	P
Wolverton	128	83	332		
Prees	128	77	274		
Hadnall B.	120	77	215		
P/brookhurst B.	120	68	213		
Nantwich Pk Rd A.	128	60	208		
Tilstock B.	128	55	202		
Malpas B.	120	50	194		
Ellesmere D.	120	52	194		
Mkt. Drayton B C.	120	50	192		
Adderley A.	128	49	196		
Cholmondeley B.	120	50	187		

Oswestry & District Bowling League

Division 1

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Ceiriog Valley A.	18	12	5	1	111
Johnstown B.	18	12	5	1	110
Ruabon A.	18	12	6	0	103
Langlollen A.	18	12	7	0	102
Criffins A.	18	11	7	0	101
Church A.	18	9	8	1	95
Corwen A.	18	8	9	1	85
Oulton A.	18	6	9	3	84
Whittington A.	18	8	9	2	83
Chirk AAA A.	18	10	8	2	82
Flecksys A.	18	14	4	0	65
Cynydd A.	18	5	13	0	59

Division 2

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Johnstown B.	18	12	5	1	114
Weston Rhyn A.	18	13	4	1	110
Ellesmere B.	18	10	7	1	98
Llanrhaeadr A.	18	10	7	1	98
Criffins B.	18	11	7	0	97
Langllynog A.	18	10	8	0	95
Church B.	18	9	8	1	91
Ye Olde Crotte A.	18	7	9	2	91
Llanymynech A.	18	7	10	1	88
Criffins C.	18	7	9	1	80
Gele...	17	11	5	0	68
Ellesmere A.	18	1	17	0	40

Division 3

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Pias Kynaston A.	18	14	3	1	112
Whittington B.	18	12	6	0	112
Bersham	18	12	6	0	107
Black Lion	18	9	7	2	98
Whittington E.	18	7	9	2	93
Johnstown C.	18	8	8	2	88
Ruabon B.	18	7	11	0	85
Chirk AAA B.	18	8	10	0	85
Ceiriog Valley B.	18	8	9	1	81
Johnstown D.	18	7	11	0	79
Royston A.	18	6	11	1	74
Weston Rhyn C.	18	5	12	1	66

Division 4

	P	W	L	D	Pts
For Lane	18	11	4	1	113
Langlollen B.	18	10	8	0	107
Ceiriog Valley C.	18	10	8	0	98
Langllynog C.	18	10	8	0	97
Church C.	18	7	9	2	92
Oulton B.	18	9	9	0	91
Llanymynech B.	18	8	10	0	91
Pias Kynaston B.	18	10	6	2	84
Llanrhaeadr D.	18	11	4	2	85
Johnstown E.	17	10	7	0	84
Llanfyllin A.	18	7	11	0	74
Flecksys B.	18	5	13	0	62

Division 5

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Cynydd B.	17	12	5	0	111
Oulton C.	16	13	3	0	105
Llanrhaeadr B.	17	11	4	2	100
Llanrhaeadr D.	17	8	7	2	94
Corwen B.	17	8	7	2	96
Chirk AAA C.	16	5	10	1	77
Ye Olde Crotte B.	16	5	8	3	76
Weston Rhyn B.	16	7	9	0	72
Royston B.	16	6	10	0	70
Church D.	17	8	9	0	63
Whittington C.	16	2	13	1	46

Division 5

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Itton	15	15	0	0	130
Whittington D.	15	11	4	0	95
Criffins D.	15	9	6	0	89
Cynydd C.	15	8	7	0	82
Langllynog B.	15	8	6	1	77
Llanymynech C.	15	6	8	0	69
Weston Rhyn D.	15	6	8	0	68
Llanfyllin B.	15	5	9	1	62
Llanrhaeadr E.	15	3	10	2	44
Church E.	15	1	13	1	34

Division 7 (Veterans)

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Langlollen	14	10	4	0	84
Weston Rhyn A.	15	10	5	0	77
Oulton A.	14	9	5	0	76
Chirk AAA A.	14	10	4	0	69
Whittington B.	15	7	8	0	67
Royston B.	15	8	7	0	65
Langllynog A.	13	7	6	0	60
Royston A.	15	6	9	0	58
Llanrhaeadr A.	14	12	2	0	49
Cynydd B.	15	3	12	0	43

Division 8 (Veterans)

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Weston Rhyn B.	15	10	5	0	88
Ceiriog Valley A.	15	11	4	0	82
Y O Crotte.	15	10	5	0	80
Cynydd A.	14	12	2	0	79
Church Club A.	14	11	3	0	73
Church Club B.	15	10	5	0	61
Langllynog B.	14	9	5	0	53
Oulton B.	15	4	11	0	52
Llanrhaeadr B.	14	4	10	0	49
Whittington A.	15	1	14	0	40

Mid Wales Bowling Association

The Old Forge Garage (Hay On Wye)

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Llanrindod	15	13	0	2	153	887	177
Prestige	14	14	0	0	138	173	173
Brecon	15	11	0	4	108	107	819
Talgarth	15	9	0	6	121	151	1291
Builth Wells	14	7	1	6	117	107	1071
Hay On Wye	15	4	0	10	110	132	64
Rhayader	14	4	0	10	155	161	59
Knights	14	1	12	1	125	130	33
Spa Bowlers	14	0	13	4	151	253	133

Matthews Jewellers

Veterans League

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Brecon A.	18	15	0	3	343	250	30
Llanrindod	18	14	0	4	338	293	258
Weysiders	18	12	0	6	319	248	24
Builth Wells	18	11	0	7	291	273	22
Talgarth	18	10	1	7	261	274	21
Prestige	18	9	0	9	203	252	18
Hay Bluff	18	8	0	10	255	291	16
Hay On Wye	18	6	1	11	222	275	13
Spartans	18	6	1	10	254	290	13
Undertakers	18	6	1	12	257	293	13
Brecon 'B'	18	4	2	12	254	329	10
Spa Bowlers	18	4	1	13	228	345	10

Whitchurch Bowling League

Division 1

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Woore A.	228	140	42	32	
Hanner A.	228	148	22	18	
Whitchurch A.	228	144	28	15	
Malpas Spts A.	228	131	40	14	
Cheswardine A.	228	115	40	18	
Adderley A.	228	127	40	53	
Bridgewater A.	228	120	59	24	
Wern U.S.C. A.	228	173	38	12	
Prees A.	228	104	37	96	
District A.	228	106	31	93	
Hodnet A.	228	106	37	45	
Chicks Ercall	228	94	36	86	
Wern A.	228	89	36	65	
Hammers	228	82	36	60	

Division 2

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Itton	228	143	40	14	
Malpas Fmrs A.	228	124	40	75	
Hadnall A.	228	127	40	73	
Audlem A.	228	120	40	52	
Malpas A.	228	114	40	58	
Prees B.	228	116	38	92	
Bridgewater B.	228	103	59	14	
District B.	228	104	38	96	
Hodnet B.	228	106	37	45	
Chicks Ercall	228	94	36	86	
Wern B.	228	89	36	65	
Hammers	228	82	36	60	

Division 3

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Itton	228	143	40	14	
Malpas Fmrs A.	228	124	40	75	
Hadnall A.	228	127	40	73	
Audlem A.	228	120	40	52	
Malpas A.	228	114	40	58	
Prees B.	228	116	38	92	
Bridgewater B.	228	103	59	14	
District B.	228	104	38	96	
Hodnet B.	228	106	37	45	
Chicks Ercall	228	94	36	86	
Wern B.	228	89	36	65	
Hammers	228	82	36	60	

Division 4

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Itton	228	143	40	14	
Malpas Fmrs A.	228	124	40	75	
Hadnall A.	228	127	40	73	
Audlem A.	228	120	40	52	
Malpas A.	228	114	40	58	
Prees B.	228	116	38	92	
Bridgewater B.	228	103	59	14	
District B.	228	104	38	96	
Hodnet B.	228	106	37	45	
Chicks Ercall	228	94	36	86	
Wern B.	228	89	36	65	
Hammers	228	82	36	60	

Division 5

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Itton	228	143	40	14	
Malpas Fmrs A.	228	124	40	75	
Hadnall A.	228	127	40	73	
Audlem A.	228	120	40	52	
Malpas A.	228	114	40	58	
Prees B.	228	116	38	92	
Bridgewater B.	228	103	59	14	
District B.	228	104	38	96	
Hodnet B.	228	106	37	45	
Chicks Ercall	228	94	36	86	
Wern B.	228	89	36	65	
Hammers	228	82	36	60	

Division 3

	P	W	P	W	P
Con Fmrs B.	228	139	192		
Whixall A.	228	131	165		
Calverhall A.	228	134	153		
Hanner B.	228	114	151		
Adderley B.	228	134	142		
Wern B.	228	120	140		
Whixall A.	228	109	131		
Audlem B.	228	97	386		
Tilstock A.	228	90	358		
Woore B.	228	103	345		
Malpas Spts B.	228	103	328		
Chester Rd C.	228	97	376		
Chester Rd Ld A.	228	104	373		
Ellesmere D.	228	93	366		

Division 4

	P	W	P	W	P
Cheswardine A.	228	150	243		
Malpas B.	228	132	408		
Awc E.	228	129	403		
Wrenbury B.	228	133	409		
Edgmond	228	124	403		
Whixall B.	228	123	392		
N In Hales A.	228	124	387		
Malpas Fmrs B.	228	103	381		
Joek Mkt Drayton	228	104	381		
Pauls Mill Rd B.	228	92	374		
Hanner D.	228	112	371		
Wrenbury C.	228	93	382		
Cholmondeley A.	228	79	426		
Awc C.	228	81	419		

Division 5

	P	W	P	W	P
Barny Park	216	14	93		
Prees C.	216	14	92		
Hadnall B.	216	13	92		
Ash B.	216	12	93		
Wern C.	216	11	93		
Hodnet B.	216	11	93		
Newport C.	216	11	93		
Cholmondeley B.	216	11	93		
Audlem C.	216	10	94		
Bridgewater C.	216	9	95		
Calverhall B.	216	9	95		
District C.	216	9	95		
Wrenbury D.	216	9	95		
N In Hales B.	216	9	95		

Division 6

	P	W	P	W	P
Chester Rd Ld B.	228	114	399		
Tilstock B.	228				



# Five-star Ruch helps Glas win low scoring game

CAE GLAS enjoyed a confidence boosting 24 point win over Shrewsbury III at Gatacre to ease their basement concerns in the Shropshire League division two.

Losing the toss, being inserted and then reduced to 39-5 did little for morale, but a dogged innings of 35 from Tim Turner, ably supported by 16 from Andy Griffiths steadied the ship with a 60 run stand for the sixth wicket.

Glas eventually clawed their way to 113 all out with the in-form Richard Scragg taking 6-24 for the visitors.

Shrewsbury's reply began badly with two early wickets falling to Turner but Ruch Nimantha stole the show with a stunning 5-35 spell as a rampant Glas fielded brilliantly and were deserved winners by 32 runs after dismissing their rivals for just 81.

It was not such a good day for GAE GLAS II who were skittled for just 69 in their 118-run loss at Pontesbury II in the reserve division two.

Despite Nick Chesters taking 3-43 off 13 overs, Pontesbury posted a creditable 187-5 in their 40 overs with 14-year-old opener Sam Morris (53) scoring his maiden half century for the senior side.

The Glas then faltered in reply, with Andy Kemp (17) the only batsmen to get into double figures as youngster Mark Valentine took a career best 7-31.

WELSHPOOL II remain in the lower reaches of the reserve division two after returning home empty handed following a nine wicket loss at Shelton II.

Despite 46 from Nathan Baines and 28 courtesy of opener Nick Davies, the Pool batting folded for 116, Steve Griffiths nabbing 5-26.

And the Shrewsbury hosts had few problems in reply, cantering

# Gerritse has six appeal in Frankton win

FRANKTON stayed in touching distance of the leaders in the Shropshire Cricket League premier division after securing an 18-run home victory against Ludlow.

Put in to bat, they were made to work hard for runs before being dismissed for 151 in the 48th over, Jacob Northwood top scoring with 34 after Ian Whiticase (27) and Scott Hale (25) had posted a half century opening stand.

After that wickets started to fall at regular intervals with James Gerritse taking 6-41 off 14 overs for the south Shropshire side.

Frankton were soon among the wickets in reply, Harry Stow taking 5-25 to help reduce the visitors to 51-5 and, despite Rob Genner's 34, Ludlow were sent back for 133 with Thomas Welti also claiming 4-25.

Despite the victory, Frankton are fourth, still 24 points off the pace with five games remaining.

# Knockin are denied by late Forton hitting

KNOCKIN & KINNERLEY lost ground on the leading pack in the Shropshire League division one after suffering a low-scoring two wicket defeat at high flying Forton.

Put in to bat, they struggled to 107 all out, Steven Gray top scoring with 31 at the top of the order, while Ian Roberts was chief destroyer with 5-44 from 15 overs.

But Knockin's bowlers hit back to give their side real chance of clinching a dramatic win, but were ultimately denied by a defiant ninth wicket stand that mustered 21 crucial runs.

Nigel Wellings led the way with 3-25, taking a wicket without a run on the board, while there were two victims apiece for Ashley Sokaloo (2-43) and Dan Jones (2-17) before their efforts just fell short.

# Clarke pens new deal with the Pears

OSWESTRY'S England under-19 wicketkeeper-batsman Joe Clarke has signed a new three-year contract with Worcestershire.

The 19-year-old made his Championship debut for the Pears against Hampshire in May and scored his first half-century against Warwickshire in his next match.

"It is really pleasing to get asked to sign a long-term contract, I'm absolutely thrilled," Clarke said. "I see Worcestershire as a good place to develop my career."

Clarke learned his formative cricket with Oswestry and his native county of Shropshire before graduating from the Worcestershire academy.

He has blossomed since being given his first-team chance, hitting three more half-centuries – against Hampshire, champions Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire.

After a successful winter playing in Australia for South Perth, Clarke has earned his first-team chance at New Road through sheer weight of runs, when he became the first Worcestershire player to score two double hundreds for the Second XI.

In seven first-class matches so far he has scored 355 runs at an average of 32.27, with a top score of 88 against defending champions Yorkshire at Scarborough in July.

He also struck an unbeaten 131 – his maiden cen-

tury – against Gloucestershire in the One-Day Cup in August. His knock came off 109 balls and included 10 fours and three sixes.

"I feel, as a youngster, there are a lot of opportunities at Worcestershire to play first-team cricket," Clarke added.

Although he is concentrating on his batting at the moment, with Ben Cox the first-choice wicket-keeper, Clarke says having the club's director of cricket and former England keeper Steve Rhodes as his mentor is helping him develop that part of his game.

"He's been really assuring and made it a lot easier for me to have no hesitation in signing," Clarke said.

# Oswestry cricketers need wins and fast

CRICKET by John Bridgwater

## OSWESTRY'S slump continued with a crushing eight wicket defeat against fellow strugglers Wellington that pushed them closer to relegation from the Birmingham Cricket League division one.

With five games left, rock bottom Oswestry are now 31 points from safety after the disastrous Shropshire derby at Morda Road, and realistically must gain at least three more wins to stay up.

Having been asked to bat first, they were soon in trouble after losing key men Warrick Fynn (3) and Worcestershire ace Joe Clarke (1).

Only Aussie Michael Johnson, who hit 60, and Alex Huxley (27) showed any application as Oswestry were bowled out for 145.

Former Somerset and Nottinghamshire opener Neil Edwards then set about the home attack, blasting 99 off just 56 balls, with 11 fours and seven sixes, as Wellington cantered to their target off 28.3 overs.

With the first team facing the drop, OSWESTRY II could be heading in the opposite direction after a six-wicket victory at C and R Hawks II.

The result lifted Oswestry 45 points ahead of third-placed Smethwick, who lost by just five runs to leaders Bridgnorth, and three more wins will guarantee Josh Coleridge's side a step up to the 2nd XI First Division.

The game at Morda Road on August 29 against Bridgnorth, who are one point ahead of Oswestry, could well turn out to be a title decider.

Saturday's game saw young leg spinner Xavie Clarke take 4-10 as Hawks were bowled out for 148, with Alex Roberts picking up 2-27.

Oswestry's reply started shakily, with Coleridge out for six, Clarke for four, and Josh Kirk retiring hurt on three.

But Callum Morris scored a gritty 52 not out to see his side home, sharing an unbroken stand of 79 with Jonny Davies (28no) after Luke Jones has thumped a quickfire 24.

OSWESTRY III put in a fine performance to earn an 18-point winning draw at Corvedale in division three of the Shropshire League.

OSWESTRY IV earned a winning draw against Tibberton II in another highly entertaining Sunday game at Morda Road.

Nick Woodcock's side rattled up 262-5 off their 40 overs and Tibberton batted out for 194-8.

■ Oswestry will continue their elusive search for a first win since June when they travel to Himley on Saturday while the seconds look to continue their promotion charge against Pelsall II at home (12.30). Oswestry IV travel to Newtown II, with the thirds taking on Harpers at Morda Road on Sunday (1pm).

## Tennis club celebrates 90 years



Having a ball – competition winner Gary Edwards with Oswestry Tennis Club members

OSWESTRY Tennis Club is 90 years old – and members celebrated the momentous occasion by serving up a tournament with a difference.

Players transported the club back to those halcyon days of the 1920s by competing in tennis gear of that era.

Social tennis organiser Anthea Landon had managed to borrow wooden tennis racquets, strung in catgut, which the members used, along with softer balls.

The tennis produced was se-date; a world away from some of

the fast and furious tennis played today, while the competition was followed by an "afternoon tea style" lunch in the clubhouse and two presentations.

The competition was won by one of the men's first team, Gary Edwards, while Helen Lowe also received a prize for making the best effort at 1920s tennis attire.

Back to 2015, Oswestry is a thriving tennis club with two men's teams, three ladies teams and four mixed teams who all play in the Shropshire Leagues.

The club's mens first team and

ladies second string have already won their respective divisions this season and will gain promotion.

The ladies first team is having its best season ever and is in contention for the division one title with just one match to go.

Club play takes place on Monday and Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings, and there are regular social tennis competitions and coaching sessions.

New members are most welcome to come along and join in, contact the club secretary on 01691 830688.

# Ellesmere maintain promotion push

CRICKET by John Bridgwater

WELLINGTON III.

Batting first, they struggled to 123 all out in the 42nd over, skipper Andrew Barker (39) and Sam Williams (27) holding the innings together in the middle as David Ross took 4-41.

Despite their efforts with the ball, with Aaron Ruff-cock picking 3-23, sixth placed Monty could not prevent their rivals from getting home with six wickets down courtesy of an unbeaten 54 from Matthew Dickinson.

ELLESMERE II also stepped up their title ambitions in the reserve division three after sweeping aside Newtown II by 101 runs to pick up 24 points.

Opening bat Adam Lewis fell just one run short of a deserved century as Ellesmere posted 208-9 in their 40 overs, before Bradley Chapman bagged 4-29 as the Mid Wales opponents were dismissed for 107 in reply. Ian Hancocks (57) providing the only resistance.

Despite the win, they remain second, 18 points adrift of leaders MONTGOMERY II who marched on at the top with a seven wicket success at home to Broseley II.

Electing to bat first, Broseley could only muster 134, with four wickets apiece from Stan Davies and Keith Griffiths.

In reply, the home side eased to their target with time and wickets to spare to seal 24 points, Gareth Jones top scoring on 32 while 49 extras swelled the

# Shropshire cricket fixtures at weekend

**Saturday Premier Division**  
Quatt v Broseley; Sound v Wem; Ludlow & South Shropshire v Reman Services; Wroxeter Grove v Newport; St Georges v Madeley; Bomere Heath v Frankton.

**Division One**  
Allscott v Lilleshall; Alberbury v Albrighton; Shelton v Newtown; Beacon v Forton; Knockin & Kinnerley v Market Drayton; Pontesbury v Tibberton.

**Division Two**  
Bishop's Castle v Wellington; Ellesmere v Condover; Much Wenlock v Willey; Montgomery v Prees; Church Stretton v Cae Glas; Shrewsbury v Welshpool.

**Division Three**  
Ludlow & South Shropshire v Wheaton Aston; Chelmarsh v Wroxeter Grove; Church Aston v Shifnal; Llanidloes v Calverhall; Iscoyd & Fenns Bank v Corvedale.

**Division Four**  
Harcourt v Beascon; Overton-on-Dee v Hinstock; Guilsfield v Acton Reynald; Trysull & Seisdon v Cotton Hall; Hodnet & Peplow v Quatt.

**Division Five**  
Corvedale v Pontesbury; Allscott v Shrewsbury; Albrighton v Lilleshall; Acton Reynald v Bridgnorth; Quayside v Much Wenlock.

**Reserves Division One**  
Newport v Beacon; Madeley v St Georges; Wellington v Quatt; Frankton v Bomere Heath; Wern v Cound; Reman Services v Ludlow & South Shropshire.

**Reserve Division Two**  
Lilleshall v Allscott; Condover v Alberbury; Willey v Shelton; Forton v Wroxeter Grove; Cae Glas v Knockin & Kinnerley; Welshpool v Pontesbury.

**Reserve Division Three**  
Broseley v Bishops Castle; Wroxeter Grove v Ellesmere; Newtown v Oswestry; Shifnal v Montgomery; Market Drayton v St Georges; Tibberton v Iscoyd & Fenns Bank.

**Sunday Division Three**  
Oswestry v Harpers.

**Division Four A**  
Reman Services v Alberbury; Frankton v Bomere Heath; Cound v Wern; Madeley v Wellington; Whitchurch v Knockin & Kinnerley; Newport v Worfield.

**Division Five**  
Wellington v Ludlow & South Shropshire; Lilleshall v Llanidloes; Knockin & Kinnerley v Madeley.

# Welshpool looking for same again

WELSHPOOL'S cricketers look to consolidate their top five position in the Shropshire League division two when they visit Shrewsbury III on Saturday.

The Maesydre side continued a promising campaign with a comfortable seven wicket success against lowly Much Wenlock.

And they will be hoping to keep up the good work against a Shrewsbury side who themselves were beaten by Cae Glas last week.

After inserting Wenlock in to bat, Pool held a tight rein with the ball as Robert Anderson took 3-21 and skipper Mat McWhinnie 2-33 to restrict their visitors to 125-6 from 40 overs, the chief resistance coming from Stuart Walters who finished undefeated on 64.

Opens Chris Proctor (25) and Rhys Williams (19) put Pool on their way before Tom Anderson's 45 not out sealed the 20 points with five overs to spare.

Cae Glas, who eased their basement worries with their welcome 32-run win over Shrewsbury, visit Church Stretton as they look to further improve their league position.

Ellesmere put their promotion credentials on the line at home to high flying Condover while Montgomery, defeated by four wickets

# Mixed bag for racer Power

DESPITE suffering mixed fortunes, Guilsfield racing driver Ben Power remains in the chase for the National Legends Car Championship.

The 25-year-old currently trails former world champion John Mickel in the hotly-contested televised series that continued its latest round at Silverstone. In the opening race, Power finished fourth on the track, only to be given a five second penalty, dropping him to 13th.

On day two, he lost a two-lap showdown with Mickel in the first race, after a safety car period, and then finished fourth in race two.

In the final, he clawed his way up to fifth, but could only manage a seventh position finish.



## Hartshorn at double as Oswestry start in style



Dave Hartshorn – scored twice

FC OSWESTRY Town opened their season in the Mercian Regional League premier division with a 3-0 victory over newly promoted AFC Broseley at Park Hall.

The visitors started well and carved out the first chance, but Town soon took control with some nice passing and quick movement.

Their efforts paid off on the half hour when new signing Tommy Lewis' defence-splitting ball found Dave Hartshorn who slotted home to give his side the lead.

Ten minutes later it was deja vu when Lewis again found Hartshorn who rounded the keeper to double Town's lead with his second of the game.

After the interval, Town tightened their grip with Harry Kerr coming close and Stefan Ivanov seeing his goal ruled out for off-side.

However, the third goal came when Ivanov released Graeme Kirkham down the left and the winger in turn found Kerr who headed home from 12 yards.

It was the perfect start for Nick Maguire's men who entertained Prees last night (wed) before having another home game against FC Hodnet on Saturday (3pm).

## Saints up and running with first victory

ST MARTINS chalked up their first win of the West Midlands League division one campaign with a hard-fought 2-0 verdict at Trysull.

After being frustrated by their 1-1 draw at home to Wednesfield the week before, it was a positive response from the Saints who defended solidly and took what chances were on offer.

They took the lead midway through the first half when a good move from the left found Guy Guilford who slotted in.

For the most part, defences were on top with clear-cut opportunities in short supply, with Sam Thomas impressing in midfield for the visitors. The Saints sealed the victory eight minutes from time through Sam Nash, before Trysull had two players sent off for foul and abusive language directed at the female officials.

Buoyed by the win, St Martins are again on the road on Saturday as they look to maintain their positive start at Bustleholme.

## MacLoed is out in front

IAN MacLoed is heading for a hand-icap reduction after using all of his 28 shots to win the David Davies Cup at Welshpool.

He carded a round of 93 (net 65) to edge out Richard Templeton on the countback with John Gamble just two points back on 67.

**Tony Crump Cup:** 1 Robert Williams 67, 2 Mark Roberts 73, 3 Matthew Thomas 70.

**David Davies Cup:** 1 Ian Macloed 65, 2 Richard Templeton 65, 3 Jon Gamble 67.

# Cave is hoping to show German bite

AFTER scoring a wonderful win on gravel in Finland earlier this month, Welsh rally driver Tom Cave is hoping the switch to Tarmac will deliver his second success in the Drive DMACK Fiesta Trophy season at Rallye Deutschland this week.

Cave and Oswestry based co-driver Craig Parry were untouchable on one of the highlights of the FIA World Rally Championship in Finland, with the victory elevating them to second place in the DMACK trophy standings after round three.

However, 23-year-old Welsh ace Cave is aiming to do the double by targeting another overall win when the series switches to the tough asphalt roads around Trier in Germany.

Cave and Parry took their only win last season on this event and will be confident of another strong performance to give their championship hopes a real boost. They are currently just eight points behind leader Marius Aasen.

The roads of Rallye Deutschland are a real challenge, and the duo will face three different types of competitive stages when the event kicks off on Friday morning.

It's straight into the vineyards which overlook the Mosel river and a series of narrow, bumpy and dusty roads, lined with walls and vines, which leave no margin for error.

Saturday's action moves east to the demanding

Baumholder military ranges, characterised by broken asphalt roads which punish cars and tyres.

The biggest challenge of the day will see two passes over the 45.61km Panzerplatte Long stage, which is lined by giant kerb stones more used to keeping tanks off the verge. There are also more traditional stages through the beautiful Saarland countryside which are fun in the dry but ultra-slippery if wet.

If the roads weren't tough enough, Cave and Parry will also need to master the changeable weather conditions and mud and gravel which gets dragged onto corners as drivers push to find the fastest racing line. Tyre choice between DMACK's dry and wet options can make or break a strong performance.

# Davies hits treble in Llanfair dream start

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

**JAMES Davies fired an opening day hat-trick as Llanfair United made a dream start to life in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance with a 5-2 victory at Buckley Town.**

The league new boys never looked back after taking a 10th minute lead through striker Ross Frame who headed home a cross from Andrew Hughes, before Matt Spencer doubled the advantage on 23 minutes with a well taken side footed volley into the bottom corner.

The home side pulled one back five minutes before half time through Danny Sullivan, but Llanfair responded superbly by scoring three minutes later as Davies opened his account when nodding in a Frame cross.

After the break, Davies made it 4-1 with his second on 55 minutes with Frame again the provider following a swift move upfield, before Buckley reduced the arrears once again with Dave Bryant finding the net midway through the half.

However, Llanfair didn't stop there and Davies completed a terrific treble on 70 minutes when put through on goal by Joe Vaughan to wrap up all three points to mark a momentous first outing of the season.

The manner of victory will give last season's Spar Mid Wales League champions a real confidence boost as they prepare for their first home game against Denbigh Town on Saturday.

But their delight will be tainted as two of the goal scorers Frame and Spencer will miss the next three months to travel abroad, with their absence certain to prove a big loss for United.

Headed goals from Mark Davies and James Henderson helped **GUILDSFIELD** to a 3-1 away success at Denbigh Town on the opening day.

New player boss Danny Barton also found the net in a positive start in his first competitive game in charge, with Warren Duckett levelling for Denbigh four minutes before half time.

**RHAYADER TOWN** opened with a 1-0 win at Porthmadog, Asa Hamilton on target 10 minutes into the second half.

**Fixtures for Saturday:** Caernarfon Town v Prestatyn, Caersws v Porthmadog, Cefn Druids v Holywell Town, Conwy Borough v Mold Alex, Flint Town Utd v Holyhead Hotspur, Guildsfield v Gresford Ath, Llanfair Utd v Denbigh Town, Rhayader Town v Buckley Town.

## Talbot golfers in national finals



The winning team of (from left): Graham Hughes, Sammy Marck, Dan Stephens and Harry Bowen

A four man team from The Talbot at Welshpool has qualified for the national finals of a golf tournament organised by chartered surveyors Sidney Phillips.

The qualifying event was held at Penrhos Park Golf Course and saw Talbot licensee Dan Stephens, and his team of Graham Hughes, Sammy Marck and Harry Bowen win

the West Wales qualifier in aid of licensed trade charities.

The team now go forward to the national finals at Archfield Golf Links in Berwick Upon Tweed on October 21.

## Whittington slip despite more heroics from Sinker

IN-FORM Brian Sinker continues to prove the one to beat for title chasing Whittington B in the Oswestry and District Bowling League division three.

Sinker maintained his place at the top of the averages with a 21-11 success, his 15th win in 18 outings while, not to be outdone, Eileen Sinker was the best of the night with a 21-10 victory.

Despite their efforts, Whittington went down went down 7-3 at Bersham (146-111), with the villagers now slipping into second spot on shots aggregate.

Plas Kynaston A have edged their way to pole position after their 7-3 (36 shots) verdict at Ryabon B.

**BLACK LION** secured a tight 5-5 draw at basement side **WESTON RHYN C** after winning the shots by three thanks to Chris Lloyd and Andrew Jones who won to four and nine respectively, while Alex Edy (21-12) was the best for the hosts.

**FOX LANE** are six points clear at the top of division four after prevailing 7-3 (148/128) at Llanymynech B, Simon Haycocks leading the way 21-8 while Dean Roberts (21-13) was the best of the replays.

**CHURCH C** are up to fifth after their fine 8-2 (155-141) raid on Plas Kynaston B, with Steve Thomas winning 21-16 and Pete Adams and Cheryl Weaver both to 16.

### Trouble

At the other end of the tablem lowly **LLANFYLLIN A** slipped deeper into relegation trouble after their 8-2 (153-117) loss at Overton B, Gwyn Gwalckmai their best to 12.

**LLANRHAEDR B** remain in the promotion mix in division five after overcoming visiting Corwen B 7-3 (163-122), Mark Howell taking the coppers 21-3 while Derek Saunders (21-9) was another good single figure winner.

It was a bad night for **CHURCH D** who slipped deeper into basement danger with a 10-0 (168-83) whitewash away at Cynwyd B.

Unbeaten **IFTON** have wrapped up the division six title with three games to spare after making it 15 wins on the bounce with an 8-2 (154-115) verdict at **CRIFTINS D**, Ian Metcalfe winning to three and Roy Williams to nine.

### Results

**Division three:** Weston Rhyn C 5 (131) Black Lion 5 (134), Ceiriog Valley B 7 (153) Chirk B 3 (123), Johnstown D 3 (136) Johnstown C 7 (143), Ruabon B 3 (115) Plas Kynaston A 7 (151), Whittington E 8 (149) Royston A 2 (129), Bersham 7 (146) Whittington B 3 (111).

**Division four:** Plas Kynaston B 2 (141) Church C 8 (155), Llanymynech B 3 (128) Fox Lane 7 (148), Overton B 8 (153) Llanyllin A 2 (117), Llanyrog C 6 (132) Llanelollen B 4 (119), Flexys B 6 (144) Llanrhaeadr B 4 (125), Johnstown R 7 (158) Ceiriog Valley C 3 (142).

**Division five:** Llanrhaeadr B 7 (163) Corwen B 3 (122), Cynwyd B 10 (168) Chuch D 9 (83), Chirk C 7 (130) Llanrhaeadr D 3 (116), Overton C 9 (165) Whittington C 1 (105), Royston B 7 (139) Ye Olde Crofte B 3 (129).

**Division six:** Whittington D 6 (135) Cynwyd C 4 (128), Criftins D 5 (151) Ifton 8 (154), Llanrhaeadr E 7 (159) Llanyllin B 3 (138) Llanyrog B 8 (156) Llanymynech C 2 (112), Church E 4 (126) Weston Rhyn D 6 (133).

# New-look Pool kick off with fine win

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

outings, **MONTGOMERY** suffered their first defeat when being edged out 3-1 at home to Penrhy-noch.

It was nip and tuck throughout, but the Roosters took the spoils through Josh Shaw, a long range strike from Mark Gornall and a last minute effort from Jonathan Evans.

New signing Elliot Jones scored a hat-trick, his third goal coming from the penalty spot, as Llanidloes Town got their first points on the board with a 4-2 victory over Aberaeron at Victoria Avenue.

Jones struck twice to put the Daffs two up, the visitors pulled one back through Gareth Severs following a goalkeeping slip, before sub Charlie Proctor restored the two goal lead.

Although Severs got a second to set up a tense finish, the points were wrapped up when Jones completed his hat-trick from a generous penalty late on.

Elsewhere, Bow Street went down 3-2 to Hay St Mary's who are now up and running after losing their opening game 1-0 to Waterloo Rovers.

**BERRIEW** bagged their first win in division two with a 5-0 romp against Presteigne – with all the goals coming in the first half.

Johnny Roberts led the way with a brace, with Karl Seliarts, Richard Davies and Ross Harris all finding the net before the interval.

Abermule were 3-0 winners against Penybont to stay among the early leaders, while Four Crosses tasted defeat in their first action when downed 3-0 at home to Radnor Valley.

**DYFFRYN IANW** slipped to their second loss with a 4-2 reverse away to early leaders Kerry, while Churchstoke were thumped 6-0 at Bulth Wells.

Bettws were also among the goals in their 5-2 triumph at Bont, while Newbridge succumbed 4-2 at joint pacesetters Borth United.

Earlier in the week, it was honours even as Waterloo Rovers drew 1-1 at home to Montgomery whose player boss Lee Jones found the net, while Carno continued their bright start with a 4-0 home win over Tywyn Bryncreg.

### Earlier results

**Division one:** Aberaeron 0 Bow Street 2, Machynlleth 2 Penrhy-noch 3.

**Division two:** Bulth Wells 1 Kerry 2, Churchstoke 1 Bettws 1, Dy-

## Ifton eyeing up sixth spot despite defeat

IFTON slipped down to sixth spot in the Flowfit Shropshire Premier Bowls League after ending up well beaten 11-3 (232-166) at Wrockwaddine Wood.

Despite the defeat, the St Martins side are still just three points adrift of third spot, and will be confident of bouncing back at home to Wem USC on Friday night.

They had made the trip to Wrockwaddine Wood in Telford in good heart after a couple of good wins the week before, but found their hosts a tough nut to crack.

Jeff Cooper had the best result for the visitors when winning 21-12 against Robert Jones, while the most valuable player honour went to Leighton Roberts who was a 21-13 victor against Andrew Marshall.





## Stephens in dreamland with big win

MANAGER Rhys Stephens described Llanfair United's five-goal debut in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance as "beyond his wildest dreams".

The league new-boys, promoted from the Spar Mid Wales League, got their season under way in superb fashion with a 5-2 victory at Buckley Town.

"We know it's early days, we won't get carried away," said Stephens. "But that was the best team performance I have been involved in."

"To a man everyone was up for the game, you could see that the attitude was spot-on in the dressing room."

"The lads have worked really hard to be in the position of playing in the Cymru Alliance, and now really want to take their chance."

"Buckley finished fourth last season, they are a decent team. So to go there and win the way we did was beyond our wildest dreams. Everyone was buzzing, but we know we have to show that kind of intensity week in, week out."

Delight at the win has been tempered by the fact that two of the scorers, Ross Frame and Matt Spencer, will miss the next three months to travel abroad.

Llanfair host Denbigh Town on Saturday, and Stephens will again be without forward Chris Gethin.

GUILSFIELD also began the new season in winning fashion with a 3-1 success at Denbigh, and will look for more of the same at home to new-boys Gresford Athletic on Saturday.

New boss Danny Barton included three debutants – young goalkeeper Ashley Roberts, striker Peter Rees and midfielder/defender Sam Litchfield.

"It was a good start for us," said Barton. "We were excellent for the first 25 minutes, but missed a lot of chances."

The Guils overachieved last season to be third and Barton reckons a top-six finish would rank as a terrific effort this time around.

"We have lost a couple of players and the league is stronger," added Barton, who has Jack Harris back in the squad this weekend.

## First steps on cup road this weekend

LOWER league clubs set out on the Welsh Cup road on Saturday as the first qualifying round of the principality's competition gets under way.

There may be no sight of holders The New Saints, who enter proceedings at a far later stage, but those teams taking part this weekend will be dreaming of a cup run to boost their coffers – and maybe landing a plum tie against a Welsh Premier side later on.

Welshpool Town launch what they hope will be a lengthy run at home to Spar Mid Wales League rivals Borth United, while Montgomery entertain Bont.

Elsewhere, Montgomeryshire League side Llanfyllin look to spring a surprise against visitors Machynlleth, while Berriew will hope to keep their flag flying when they welcome Newbridge.

Other ties see Kerry visit Knighton Town, Abermule – under new boss Clive McNamee – head to Aberaeron and Presteigne take on Tywyn Brynchrug.

# BOOKIES BACK TNS FOR TITLE

**THE bookies have again made The New Saints overwhelming favourites in the Dafabet Welsh Premier as they start their title defence with Saturday's opener at new-boys Haverfordwest.**

Having been crowned champions for the past four years, pre-season odds would suggest that dominance will continue.

The Saints are a staggering 1/7 with the bookies, while their closest rivals are seen as Airbus UK Broughton (11/2) and Bala Town (14/1).

Few anticipate anything but another one horse race as full-timers TNS chase a fifth successive crown, but manager Craig Harrison will not rest on his laurels as he approaches a tricky trip to West Wales this weekend.

"It is one thing being the bookies' favourites, but we've got to make sure we go out there and do it on the pitch," he said.

"Chelsea were the favourites in the Premier League two weeks ago, but after a draw and a defeat that has all changed now."

"We've got a tough start. Haverfordwest are back in the league after five or six seasons, and will certainly be up for their first game."

"But we can't wait for the start of the season, which has been a long time coming after we've been back in training since May 26."

### Historic

"After four Champions League games and some really good friendlies, we're looking in good shape and the thought of going for a fifth successive title is an exciting prospect."

"We have a team that is more than good enough to retain the league, as the players have proven season upon season."

Last season will be a tough act to follow after TNS also lifted the Welsh Cup and Word League Cup to complete an historic treble, losing just once in all competitions.

There have been a couple of departures, with midfielder Sam Finley joining Conference North side AFC Fylde and winger Ryan Fraughan switching to Welsh Premier rivals Airbus UK.

"They did not play a lot for us last season, and we wish them well for the future," added Harrison. "With them leaving, it has given me the chance to freshen things up with maybe one or two new signings, while it will also give some of our younger players like Ryan Edwards a chance to flourish."

Youngsters James Jones and Jordan Wells have gone out on loan to Cymru Alliance clubs Gresford Athletic and Conwy Borough respectively. Meanwhile, a late strike by substitute Matty Williams earned TNS a 2-1 victory against Mid-diesbrough under-21s in a behind closed doors friendly at Boro's Rockliffe Hall training ground.

Defender Connell Rawlinson headed the Saints in front in the 27th minute from Alex Darlington's left-wing corner.

Boro's young guns were back on terms on 58 minutes when Lewis Maloney drilled home a right-foot shot from 25 yards. But the Saints had the last word in the final minute as half-time substitute Williams hammered a terrific shot into the top corner from the edge of the box.

## Time running out for Oswestry



No-go Joe – Oswestry's Joe Clarke is bowled in the defeat to Wellington. Pic: Peter Shah

OSWESTRY'S prospects of escaping the drop are looking increasingly bleak – and they desperately need to stop the rot in Saturday's Birmingham Cricket League division one trip to Himley.

The Morda Road men, without a win since June, are firmly rooted to the foot of the table after a crushing eight-wicket loss to fellow strugglers Wellington.

They are now 31 points adrift of safety with time running out – just five games remain – and their hopes of a change of fortune this weekend are not helped with three main bowlers missing.

Skipper Mark Robinson is out for the next three games, while fellow left-arm spinner and opening bat Warrick Fynn is sidelined on Saturday along with seamer Dan Bowen.

The lack of cutting edge has been a problem, particularly in the second half of the season, and was again ruthlessly exposed as Wellington cantered to victory last week.

Oswestry certainly face an uphill battle if they are to stage a great escape.

"We really need to win three of our remaining five games to have any chance of staying up," admitted chairman Mike Robinson.

"At the start of the season I really felt we could challenge for the title, so it has been disappointing."

"We've not won since beating Attock back on June 27, and the longer the losing run has gone on, the harder it has been to get out of it."

Oswestry really needed to defeat Wellington to give them any real chance of escaping the drop, but little went right on a day when they picked up just one point.

Having been asked to bat first, they soon lost key men Fynn (three) and Worcestershire ace Joe Clarke (one). Only Aussie Michael Johnson, who hit 60, and Alex Huxley (27) showed any application as Oswestry were bowled out for 145.

Former Somerset and Nottinghamshire opener Neil Edwards then set about the home attack, blasting 99 off just 56 balls, with 11 fours and seven sixes.

Wellington eased to the target to boost their own hopes of survival.

After his early dismissal in Oswestry's demise, Clarke was back in the runs two days later with an unbeaten 51 to help Worcestershire to an eight-wicket win against Leicestershire in the One Day Cup.

## Rhyn close in on bid for promotion

**WESTON RHYN A** took a step closer to a return to the top flight of the Oswestry and District Bowling League with a 7-3 victory at **CHURCH B**, writes **JOHN BRIDGWATER**.

Skipper Brian Oakley led the way with a 21-8 success as Rhyn took the aggregate by just three shots (137-134) to move 11 points clear in second spot in division two with three matches remaining. Merv Weaver (21-8) impressed for the home side.

**LLANRHAEDR A**, in fourth place, defeated relegation-threatened **GEORGE 7-3** (154-114), Neil Jones and Mel Roberts winning to five and six respectively, with Lance Leonard (21-13) responding.

Leaders Johnstown B are five points clear after prevailing 8-2 (145-107) at home to **CRIFTINS C**, but it was a better night for **CRIFTINS B** who thumped Llangynog A 9-1 (164-97) to go third with Ian Miner (21-6) taking the coppers.

**LLANYMYNECH A** picked up a 7-3 (145-125) verdict at basement club **ELLESMERE A**, with good single figure wins from Basil Kirkham (21-8) and Henry Pugh (21-9), while Jamie Birch (21-11) responded for the hosts.

### Consolation

**WHITTINGTON A's** fortunes continue to look up in division one after inflicting a 10-0 (168-104) whitewash on the one time title challengers **CRIFTINS A**.

Julian Turner was on song to nine and skipper Aled Davies won to 11, to lift their revitalised side up to seventh in the table.

It was a bad night for **CHURCH A** who slumped 9-1 (165-125) at lowly Flexsys A, Ade Humphreys (21-18) getting their consolation.

Ceiriog Valley A tightened their grip at the top with a 9-1 (158-122) romp against title rivals Johnstown A, while Ruabon A remain in the chase after sweeping aside lowly Cynwyd A 10-0 (168-99).

Llangollen A saw their promotion challenge fade after they suffered a 7-3 (144-99) loss at Corwen A, while in the other action, Chirk A edged out Over-ton A 6-4 after the aggregate had been shared 141-141.

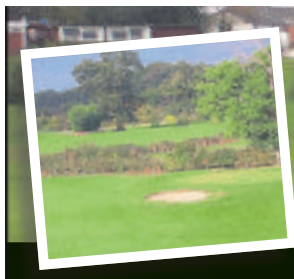
## Two trophies with season yet to start

OSWESTRY rugby club continued their successful summer by adding another piece of silverware.

They took victory in the Ivor Boas Plate in the Abington Sevens.

Fresh from lifting the Llanidloes Heart of Sevens Bowl last month, the Eagles again produced some fine rugby in the shortened version of the game in Northamptonshire.

Buoyed by their success, Oswestry will be looking to make a flying start to the newly-structured Cheshire South season on Saturday, September 5 at home to Ashton-on-Mersey.



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